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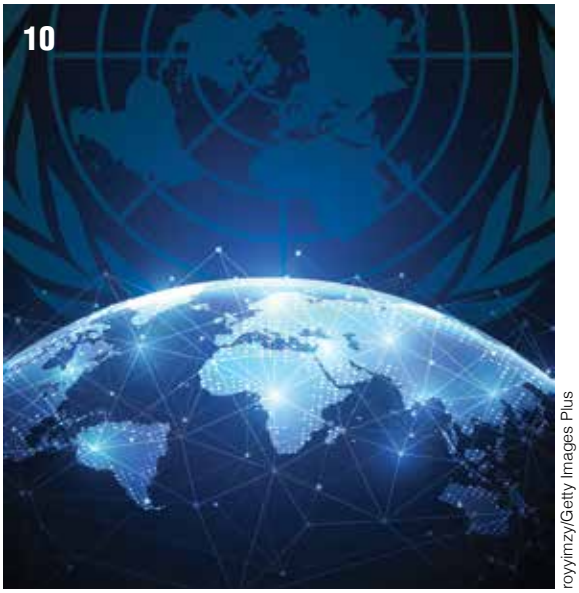

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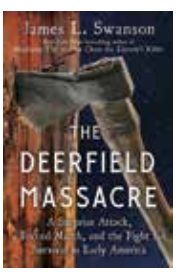

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United Nations 2.0

Amid all of 2024's history-making moments, one of the year's most important events passed with barely a notice in the Establishment media. Days after the second Trump assassination attempt, world leaders and globalist bureaucrats convened at UN headquarters in New York City for the Summit of the Future, where a new globalist agenda, the Pact for the Future, was unveiled. The Summit and the Pact (including an attached Global Digital Compact) were billed as an effort to create a "United Nations 2.0," a comprehensive upgrade of the 80-year-old international system.

The Pact for the Future is replete with red flags indicative of how comprehensive — and dangerous — this UN upgrade is intended to be. The five sections of the pact, divided into "Actions," display the totalitarian mindset that echoes Mussolini's famous formula, "Everything within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state": "Sustainable development and financing for development" (Section 1); "International peace and security" (Section 2); "Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation" (Section 3); "Youth and future generations" (Section 4); and "Transforming global governance" (Section 5). As to specifics, Action 4 reads: "Promote inclusive and effective international tax cooperation, which contributes significantly to national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals [SDG], as it enables countries to effectively mobilize their domestic resources, and stress that the current international tax governance structures need improvements. We are committed to strengthening the inclusiveness and effectiveness of tax cooperation at the United Nations … and will continue to engage constructively in the process towards developing a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation." In other words, the United Nations 2.0 wants to be the global authority of last resort on taxation.

Or consider the following language from Action 25, under the heading of "International Peace and Security": "[W]hile the final objective of the efforts of all States should continue to be general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the immediate goal is elimination of the danger of a nuclear war and implementation of measures to avoid an arms race and clear the path towards lasting peace." Translation: Using the pretext of nuclear disarmament, we intend to place all military forces, including nukes, under UN control.

Then there's this tidbit from Action 47, under "Transforming global governance": "Reform of the international financial architecture is an important step towards building greater trust in the multilateral system. We … call for even more urgent and ambitious action to ensure that the international financial architecture becomes more efficient, more equitable, fit for the world of today and responsive to the challenges faced by developing countries in closing the SDG financing gap."

The Global Digital Compact appended to the pact urges transforming the UN into a global internet censor: "We will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of misinformation and disinformation and hate speech online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with international law…. [We will] provide, promote and facilitate access to and dissemination of independent, fact-based, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information to counter misinformation and disinformation."

The document is a blueprint for a comprehensive overhaul that would, over time, greatly enlarge the power of the UN system. Like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change signed more than 30 years ago, the Pact for the Future is intended to be implemented piecemeal over the next few decades.

As usual, *The New American* covered a major UN event ignored by the legacy media. In this issue, Alex Newman and Andrew Muller, who attended the event, bring comprehensive coverage of the Summit of the Future and its pact, so that our readers can stay one step ahead of the globalists and their Establishment media and government toadies, and work to get US out of the UN.

— *Steve Bonta*

CORRECTION: In "The State of the State Legislatures" (October 14 issue), we incorrectly wrote that two nullification bills passed the Wyoming state House in 2023. Although the House voted on those bills — itself a notable occurrence — they failed to pass. We apologize for the mistake.

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Professor Leaves University After Advocating Shooting Voters

University of Kansas (KU) lecturer Dr. Phillip W. Lowcock, director of international student-athlete support for Kansas Athletics and a lecturer in the school's Health Sport & Exercise Science Department, called for political violence against men who would have chosen not to vote for Vice President Kamala Harris because she is a woman. He stated during a lecture earlier this semester: "There are going to be some males in our society that will refuse to vote for a potential female president because they don't think females are smart enough to be president. We can line all those guys up and shoot them, they clearly don't understand the way the world works. Did I say that? Scratch that from the recording, I don't want the Deans hearing that I said that."

Lowcock was placed on administrative leave on October 9 after a video of his comments went viral on X. KU Director for News and Media Relations Erinn Barcomb-Peterson said that Lowcock "offers his sincerest apologies and deeply regrets the situation. His intent was to emphasize his advocacy for women's rights and equality, and he recognizes he did a very poor job of doing so."

However, Lowcock allegedly has a history of making inappropriate statements during lectures. One student noted in a March 1, 2024 review on Rate My Professors that the professor "made class very uncomfortable sometimes with making sexual jokes even when it wasn't related to the topic."

FOX4 Kansas City reported on October 11 that Lowcock had

Minerva Studio/iStock/Getty Images Plus

"left the university." In announcing his departure, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Barbara A. Bichelmeyer emphasized that, although free speech is necessary in classrooms, it does not extend to advocating violence. In an October 11 memo posted on KU's website, she said: "I am writing today to inform you that the instructor has left the university. The free expression of ideas is essential to the functioning of our university…. Academic freedom, however, is not a license for suggestions of violence like we saw in the video."

Food Pantry Bans Whites

Come with me to fill this 100% FREE resource hub for Black & Indigenous Folx in North Minneapolis
The resources found in here are intended for Black & Indigenous Folx. Please refrain from taking anything if you're not.

The Post Millennial/X

The Post Millennial reported on September 30 about a Minneapolis food bank — the Food Trap Project Bodega — that reserves its inventory for "Black & Indigenous Folx" and won't serve white people. "Those who are hungry and white are told not to take the 'resources' available. Mykelo 'Keiko' Jackson, who runs the food pantry, was awarded a Minnesota State grant to open the food pantry."

The Post Millennial described what happened when local chaplain Howard Dotson — who is white — went to the pantry, was denied entry, and filed a complaint. Jackson called that a display of his "white privilege" and claimed that he'd perpetrated "political violence."

Jackson's motivation for rejecting whites is the lack of supermarkets in "predominantly Black communities," which she says are "food deserts." She further blames "food apartheid," which "encompasses the systematic lack of access to healthy foods and takes into account race, geography, and economics. This intersectional approach to understanding America's food system attributes a lack of access to healthy food, which disproportionately affects communities of color, to our country's history of systemic racism."

The dearth of supermarkets in inner-city black communities is not due to "systemic racism." High crime rates drive businesses away, and leftist policies exacerbate the problem. For example, shoplifting has exploded in Democratic jurisdictions where slap-on-the-wrist "justice" prevails and penalties for "minor theft" have been reduced. As for Minneapolis, the 2020 George Floyd riots caused hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage. Will every burned-out business want to return?

Michelle Obama made a great stink years ago about food deserts. But here's an idea: She and Barack have a combined net worth of $70 million. They also have friendships and influence with troves of outrageously wealthy people. So, instead of complaining, why doesn't she create a supermarket chain to serve inner-city areas? If there's no good reason for grocers to exit these neighborhoods — if it's all just racism — then she and her partners should be able to turn a profit while doing good.

London Police Settle With Street Preacher

ChrisSteer/iStock/Getty Images Plus

According to Fox News on October 7, London's Metropolitan Police paid a $13,100 settlement to a Christian street preacher they arrested after her preaching angered a Muslim mob.

Hatun Tash, a former Muslim, "regularly critiques and debates the Qur'an and Islam at Speakers' Corner," a section of Hyde Park set aside for free speech and demonstrations, according to Christian Concern, the source of the Fox article.

One of the props Tash uses in her demonstrations is a Qur'an with holes drilled in it, which represents holes in the "standard [Islamic] narrative." On June 26, 2022, Tash was setting up for her usual preaching in Speakers' Corner when a man stole her Qur'an, whereupon her friends called the police. When she resisted being drawn away from the crowd by police, the officers dragged "her through the crowds to waiting police vans. Crowds of Muslims … laughed, crowed, filmed, pursued, mocked and assaulted Miss Tash as she was led away. The police did nothing to control the crowd or deal with any of the violent intimidation."

When she arrived at the police station, she was strip-searched, had her eyeglasses removed, and was "deprived of sleep and interrogated at 4am," reported Christian Concern. After 15 hours in custody, she was released. She sued.

According to her attorneys, "Even if arrest and detention is deemed lawful initially it may subsequently become unlawful.… The burden is on the police to show that the detention was lawful 'minute by minute.'" Unable to show that Tash's detention was lawful at all times, the police chose to settle.

Unbelievably, the police paid Tash the same amount in 2022 for unlawful arrest. In May 2021, in full view of the police, an angry Muslim mob began threatening Tash. Police arrested Tash for "breaching the peace," and kept her for 24 hours. Also, in July 2021, again "in front of the police," Tash "was repeatedly stabbed by a man in an Islamic robe.… The attacker has never been caught and is believed to have escaped abroad."

Women's Volleyball Team Opts Out of Playing Against a Man

The Utah State University women's volleyball team announced on October 2 that it would be forfeiting its match against San Jose State University (SJSU).

Utah State joined several other teams — Wyoming, Southern Utah, and Boise State — that have chosen not to play the undefeated San Jose State team. The universities involved in the forfeits have issued bland announcements about their decisions, failing to give any reason. However, other sources have confirmed the teams are forfeiting because the San Jose team includes a biological male, Brayden (aka "Blaire") Fleming.

According to news website MyNorthwest on October 3, local GOP politicians are supportive of the move. For instance, Utah state House Speaker Mike Schultz posted on X: "To the Utah State and Southern Utah Women Volleyball teams: We stand behind you and are cheering you on! Thank you for standing up for not only yourselves, but for women across the country — current and future generations! It's time for the NCAA to take action to protect our female athletes and preserve women's sports."

Utah Governor Spencer Cox also weighed in on X: "I stand with the students, coaches and leadership at @SUUtbirds and @USUAggies in their decision to forgo their women's volleyball matches against San Jose State."

San Jose State played the "hurt feelings" card rather than address the issue. Michelle Smith McDonald, director of media relations for the school, said in a statement, "It is disappointing that our SJSU student athletes … are being denied opportunities to compete. We are committed to supporting our student-athletes through these challenges and in their ability to compete in an inclusive, fair, safe and respectful environment."

Leaders of the local LGBT community called the forfeits "uninformed and highly uneducated." Chad Call of Utah Pride Center noted, "We are disappointed by the recent decision of Utah State University to cancel their volleyball match with San Jose State due to the participation of a transgender woman athlete. We expect more out of our state's institutions of higher learning." ■

skynesher/iStock/Getty Images Plus

QUICK QUOTES

"Yours is a story I hear around the country as I travel, and in terms of both rightly having the right to have aspirations and dreams and ambitions for your family and working hard and finding that the American dream is for this generation and so many recently far more elusive than it's been and we need to deal with that."

During Oprah Winfrey's "Unite for America 2024" campaign rally in September, a young Pennsylvania couple identified as Rachel and Garrett asked Vice President **Kamala Harris** *about her plan for lowering the high cost of living. After this characteristically insipid word salad, she promised to target "price gougers" and offer government subsidies to new home buyers.*

Kamala Harris

AP Images

Donald Trump

Gage Skidmore

"So, we have to start always with energy. Always. I don't want to be boring about it, but there's no bigger subject that covers everything. If you make donuts, if you make cars, whatever you make, energy is a big deal. And we're going to get that — it's my ambition to get your energy bill within twelve months down 50 percent…. If I can do that, we've done a helluva job…. Interest rates are going to follow."

During Arkansas Republican Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders' town hall event in September, a Michigan mother identified as Barbara asked former President **Donald Trump** *about his plan for lowering the high cost of living. Though his statement about the importance of energy was accurate, his answer included nothing about dismantling the bureaucracy or reining the federal government back within its constitutional bounds.*

"We also need to keep up the people's belief that the drug works. So, that's why spinning it in the media is helpful…. You can spin [drug studies] so that people won't like, dump the stock thinking that the company is worthless."

In undercover footage broadcast by podcaster Steven Crowder, **Dr. Jay Varma** *revealed his current work for a pharmaceutical company to market tecovirimat, or Tpoxx, for treatment of monkeypox. Varma is the former chief medical officer of SIGA Technologies, and served as senior health advisor to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio during the Covid debacle.*

Gina Raimondo

AP Images

"What he says is the opposite. It's just another lie. Like, how did we get here? Let's extinguish him for good."

U.S. Secretary of Commerce **Gina Raimondo** *appeared on MSNBC's* Morning Joe. *Using inflammatory rhetoric that would have meant political suicide for a conservative, she spurned a remark Donald Trump made at a Pennsylvania rally. Addressing women about abortion, he said, "I am your protector."*

"Such an affirmation of Pope Francis is clearly against the divine revelation. It contradicts directly the First Commandment of God which is ever valid — 'You shall not have other gods beside Me.' This is so clear, and such a statement contradicts the entire Gospel."

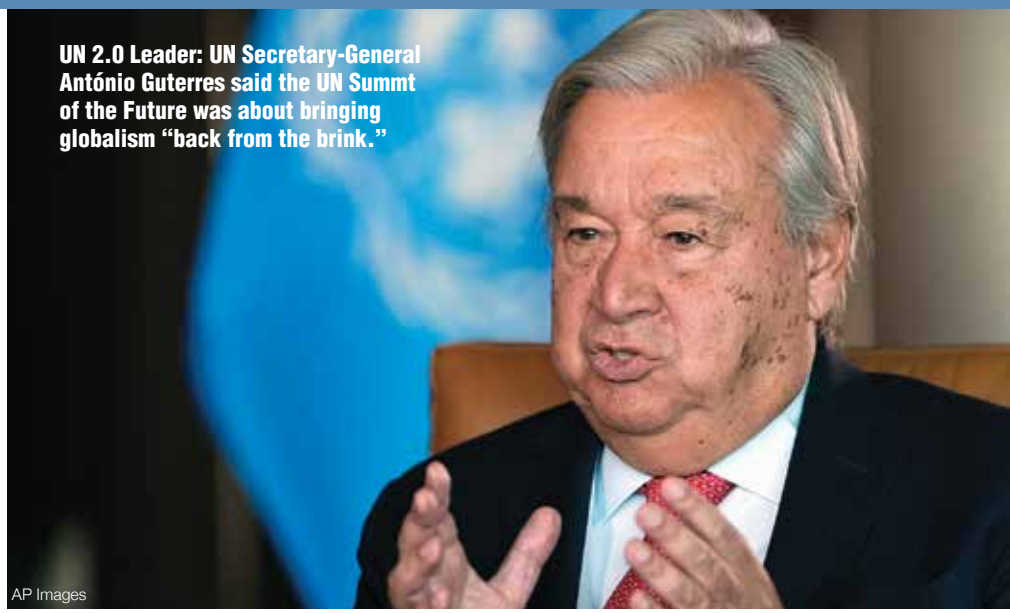
Speaking with EWTN's Raymond Arroyo on The World Over, *Kazakhstan's* **Bishop Athanasius Schneider** *criticized the comment Pope Francis made while traveling in Singapore that "Every religion is a way to arrive at God."*

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell

UN BLUEPRINT FOR GLOBAL CONTROL

World leaders gathered in New York City for the UN Summit of the Future, where they agreed to further empower the United Nations in another step toward globalism.

by Alex Newman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UN 2.0 Leader: UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the UN Summt of the Future was about bringing globalism "back from the brink."

UNITED NATIONS — Governments and dictators from around the world gathered in New York City for the UN Summit of the Future on September 22 and adopted a sprawling agreement to expand and further empower the United Nations. The controversial declaration approved by the UN General Assembly, known as the "Pact for the Future," is seen by the UN and its member governments as a great leap forward for the cause of globalism. Legal experts are sounding the alarm about its significance, with one leading international law professor warning of an effort to create "a totalitarian, worldwide police state." And opposition is growing quickly.

The shortest way to summarize the goal of the scheme: It is designed to transform the UN into "UN 2.0," as top leaders of the organization put it. Whereas once the UN was supposed to be merely about keeping "peace" among nations — at least that is how it was marketed to humanity — the Pact for the Future and associated UN agreements make clear that the organization now has far grander ambitions. From education, health, and the environment, to the economy and even emergency management, the UN wants a much larger role.

In the United States, at least, lawmakers, governors, and grassroots leaders are growing increasingly restless about what they perceive as a historic power grab. However, as *The New American* questioned attendees at the UN summit, it was clear that many of them were on edge as Donald Trump, a historic and self-proclaimed nemesis of globalism, prepared for a possible return to the White House. Those asked about it recoiled in horror at the prospect.

Officials at the summit were giddy thinking about the new order they were building. UN General Assembly President Philemon Yang of Cameroon claimed the new UN deal would "lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order — for all peoples and nations." Other leaders of the organization and an endless parade of "world leaders" — including senior officials from mass-murdering communist regimes such as the one ruling over mainland China — echoed the sentiment.

According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, former leader of the world's preeminent alliance of socialist and communist political parties known as the Socialist International, the UN Summit of the Future was a major deal. It represented, he said, "an essential first step towards making global institutions more legitimate, effective, and fit for the world of today and tomorrow." Bringing globalism "back from the brink" was a key theme and talking point throughout.

Globalism on the March

Of course, empowering the UN was always on the agenda of its founders, even if they kept mostly silent about it at its inception. U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, a co-founder of the globalist Deep State outfit known as the Council on Foreign Relations, was instrumental in setting up the UN, even serving as a delegate in the process. After the organization's founding, Dulles revealed the endgame in his 1950 book *War or Peace*.

"The United Nations represents not a final stage in the development of world order, but only a primitive stage. Therefore its primary task is to create the conditions which will make possible a more highly developed organization," Dulles wrote. "I have never seen any proposal made for collective security with 'teeth' in it, or for 'world government' or for 'world federation,' which could not be carried out either by the United Nations or under the United Nations Charter."

That is exactly what is taking place. "Transforming" (read: empowering) the UN with vast new authorities and responsibilities was one of the major focuses of the massive gathering and is woven into the pact. "We can't create a future fit for our grandchildren with systems built for our grandparents," explained Guterres, a line that was printed out on giant signs throughout UN headquarters, giving critical talking points not just to his minions but also to propagandists posing as "journalists" from all over the world.

Among the many proposals aimed at centralizing power and facilitating action is a vow in the pact to "reform" the powerful UN Security Council. The body, which has five veto-wielding permanent members, including the United States, purports to have the authority to make binding decisions, including the deployment of military "peace" forces. Eventually, the goal is to eliminate the veto power of the permanent members while adding new members, including governments from Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

The final agreement adopted at the Summit of the Future formalizes the push for more "global governance" with the backing of virtually every national government and dictatorship on Earth. "We recognize that the multilateral system and its institutions, with the United Nations and its Charter at the center, must be strengthened to

Alex Newman is a senior editor of The New American*, author of* Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes*, and co-author (with the late Sam Blumenfeld) of* Crimes of the Educators.

keep pace with a changing world," reads the Pact for the Future.

"We renew our commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation," the pact adds, one of countless references to the supposed need to work through "multilateral" institutions and programs to save humanity and the planet. "We will transform global governance and strengthen the multilateral system."

Only more globalism can handle the real and imagined problems facing humanity, according to the document. A "recommitment to international cooperation based on respect for international law," the pact says, is "required," with the term "international cooperation," like "multilateralism," serving as a synonym for globalism. "This is not an option but a necessity," it continues, suggesting the views of voters and taxpayers matter little.

In fact, the agreement specifically claims that nations and their governments cannot possibly handle the alleged problems that face humanity without the UN. "Our challenges are deeply interconnected and far exceed the capacity of any single State alone," the pact states, a reformulated version of the "global problems require global solutions" mantra. "They can only be addressed collectively, through strong and sustained international cooperation."

The term "global governance," often used as a less-ominous placeholder for "global government," is mentioned repeatedly throughout the document, always as something positive to be advanced. Under the heading "Transforming global governance," for instance, the pact calls for a dramatic expansion of these mechanisms for governing all of humanity.

"Today, our multilateral system, constructed in the aftermath of the Second World War, is under unprecedented strain," the pact says, pointing to supposed (and undefined) "remarkable achievements" over the last 80 years. "But we are not complacent about the future of our international order, and we know that it cannot stand still."

One of the institutions that receives a shoutout is the would-be global supreme court known as the "International Court of Justice," often ridiculed by critics as a "kangaroo court." "We will fulfil our obligation to comply with the decisions and uphold the mandate of the International Court of Justice," the pact states.

Another area where the UN hopes to expand its power is on taxation, vowing to "explore options" for "international cooperation" on taxes and on taxing "high net worth" individuals. "We are committed to strengthening the inclusiveness and effectiveness of tax cooperation at the United Nations," the deal explains, one of many efforts to eventually implement global taxation under whatever pretext.

Ultimately, though, globalism must expand across the board. "We will take action to strengthen and reinvigorate multilateralism and deepen international cooperation," it continues, offering "unwavering commitment to international law" for dealing with supposed challenges. "A transformation in global governance is essential to ensure that the positive progress we have seen across all three pillars of the work of the United Nations in recent decades does not unravel. We will not allow this to happen."

"WE CAN'T BUILD A FUTURE FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN WITH A SYSTEM BUILT FOR OUR GRANDPARENTS."
ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

The New American

Building back: Shown here is one of many signs posted at the Summit of the Future calling on the "system" to be overhauled, making way for "UN 2.0."

Controlling the Narrative

However, as highlighted by *The New American* in a September 23 online article, the UN recognizes that humanity — and especially American taxpayers, who pay the bulk of the bills — is growing weary of the UN. "We must renew trust in global institutions by making them more representative of and responsive to today's world and more effective at delivering on the commitments that we have made to one another and our people," the agreement reads.

One of the major tools to help the UN "renew" trust in globalism is controlling information, as the pact makes clear. It calls on governments to "address" so-called "disinformation, misinformation, hate speech and content inciting harm, including content disseminated through digital platforms." Of course, "hate speech" was a term introduced into the UN lexicon by the mass-murdering Soviet dictatorship to describe speech it hated.

"We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect in the digital space," governments vow in the UN agreement, followed by a dizzying array of actions they intend to take. "We will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of misinformation and disinformation and hate speech online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with international law."

It is not just about restricting information that counters the UN narrative. A

confidential memo sent to communications executives across the UN system earlier this year and obtained by *The New American* included provisions on how to propagandize humanity on the Summit of the Future and its agenda. "The Summit of the Future is a pivotal moment on our agenda," the memo said, adding that the UN Department of Global Communications "wants to make sure we take the media with us — starting with briefs on specific parts of the agenda."

"The Summit will have a narrative and key message booklet to help staff understand how to communicate on the issues," it added. "There is an increasingly large group of people who are mobilizing to get past cynicism, but some of the issues are hard to sell. Making multilateralism work is something we should sell. Advertising agencies are happy to help — we should consider how we can 'flood the internet' with positive, factual campaigns."

The New American

Watchdogs: *The New American's* Andrew Muller (left) and Alex Newman were on the ground at the UN headquarters in New York City, asking world leaders hard questions.

One way the UN has worked to "flood the internet" with its propaganda is by partnering with Google to hide information contrary to its narratives, especially on issues such as climate. In 2022, at a World Economic Forum sustainability event, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications Melissa Fleming boasted of a partnership with Google.

"We started this partnership when we were shocked to see that when we Googled 'climate change,' we were getting incredibly distorted information right at the top," she said. "We're becoming much more proactive. We own the science, and we think that the world should know it, and the platforms themselves also do."

Asked by *The New American* after a panel on "freedom of the press" about how the UN and Google determine what information to conceal from humanity, Fleming refused to answer. "Sorry — I'm sorry, I'm not sure who you are; we can't do this right now," she said as her aides swooped in to prevent further questions while Fleming proceeded to talk to other journalists. The full video of the interaction is available at thenewamerican.com/tag/un-summit-of-the-future/.

Power Grabs & Human Rights

One of the major power grabs in the final agreement inked this weekend involves the UN response to what it describes as "complex global shocks." These could be anything from "climate" issues or economic problems to environmental crises or even unpredictable "black swan" events, according to UN officials.

Under a proposal outlined in a policy brief dubbed "Our Common Future" released by UN boss Guterres last year, Guterres himself would essentially become a global dictator to deal with real or imagined international emergencies, declared at his sole discretion. The proposal called for nations, businesses, and all sectors of society to recognize the "primary role of intergovernmental organs [such as UN agencies] in decision-making."

While the final agreement does not contain everything he asked for, it does provide a "mandate" from member states for Guterres to pursue the agenda vigorously. "We recognize the need for a more coherent, cooperative, coordinated and multidimensional international response to complex global shocks and the central role of the United Nations in this regard," the pact declares, calling on Guterres to devise new ways to "strengthen the United Nations system response to complex global shocks."

A key theme of the pact is reaffirming commitments to previous UN agreements and schemes such as the UN's "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," a tool of tyrants aiming to replace the U.S. understanding of God-given unalienable rights with UN-granted revocable privileges.

In particular, the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a recipe for global tyranny adopted in 2015 as the "master plan for humanity," is a focal point of the new deal. "We reaffirm our enduring commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals," the new agreement states, vowing to "urgently accelerate" its implementation with "concrete political steps" and more tax money.

As part of that, the UN claims it needs virtually limitless amounts of power and money to do everything from "eradicat[ing] poverty" and "eliminat[ing] food insecurity," to dealing with alleged man-made "climate change" and reducing "inequality" both "within" and "among" countries. Ironically, as this magazine has documented, many of the real and imagined evils the UN pretends to fight were created or worsened by UN policies or those of its member states.

The deal also vows that governments will subject all children on earth to a "quality" and "equitable" so-called education, with the key terms left undefined. Based on the array of UN agreements and policies dealing with education, though, the UN has a very different vision of what constitutes a "quality" education than, say, an Ameri-

can Christian who homeschools his or her children would.

Added to the pact are annexes, including the Global Digital Compact (see page 17) to have the UN take the lead on regulation of the digital realm (data, internet, artificial intelligence, and more). Also attached to the final agreement is the Declaration on Future Generations pretending that all the efforts to usurp more power for the UN (and even wage war on energy) are really "for the children" and generations yet unborn.

Legal Push for a "Totalitarian, Worldwide Police State"

To understand the legal implications of the new pact, *The New American* reached out to Dr. Francis Boyle, professor of international law at the University of Illinois. Describing the move as a "massive, overwhelming power grab by the UN Secretary General and the globalist forces behind him" that "violates the terms of the United Nations Charter," Boyle warned that the censorship agenda and the "emergency" language in the agreement are especially dangerous.

"In the event that the secretary general declares an emergency as defined by him in accordance with his own Ipse Dixit ["he himself said it"], he will arrogate to himself the powers not only of the secretary, which he already has, but the powers of the General Assembly, the powers of the Trusteeship Council, the powers of the Economic and Social Council, and also powers over the UN's specialized agencies and affiliated organizations," warned Boyle, who serves on the board of Amnesty International.

Approval of the pact by the UN General Assembly through "consensus" can make it part of "customary international law," Boyle explained while disputing the UN claim that there is in fact "consensus" to adopt it. But there is more to the story, as the globalists work to impose "a totalitarian, worldwide police state" on humanity through international agreements and bodies, he added. This pact is a major piece of that threat.

"What they are trying to do now is to get UN member state heads of state and heads of government to sign on to this pact and commit their nations," Boyle said. "Under the Vienna Convention on Law Treaties and general principles of international law, heads of state and heads of government have extraordinary and plenipotentiary powers to conclude treaties on behalf of their own states. So, if and when heads of states sign on to this pact for the future, it will become an international treaty that could pose a dire threat to the sovereignty of any state that signs on to it."

While in the United States the U.S. Constitution requires consent of the Senate, by a two-thirds majority vote of the senators present, to ratify a treaty, the goal is ultimately to impose this pact on all nations. "This is an attempt, then, to turn this into hard law and to basically take the agenda of the World Economic Forum, Klaus Schwab, and turn it into hard international law," continued Boyle, who wrote the unanimously approved U.S. legislation for implementing the Biological Weapons Convention. "Clearly they put the word pact in there on purpose to make it clear this will be a treaty that will have profound consequences on the domestic legal orders of the states involved."

Blasting the globalists who tried to "poison" humanity with the "Nazi frankenshots," Boyle also warned that the language in the pact on "misinformation" and "disinformation" would be used just as it was during Covid: to silence anyone and everyone who tries to tell the truth and expose the agenda. As such, he added, it is imperative that elected officials at every level of government pledge to resist and disobey the UN and the World Health Organization. "That's what needs to be done right now to protect this republic and our Constitution," concluded Boyle. "It must be done."

Growing Opposition

Adopted by supposed "consensus," the pact drew token opposition from a handful of governments. Before it was formally adopted without opposition, a coalition of autocratic regimes led by the Kremlin tried to add an amendment stating that the UN would not interfere with domestic issues within national jurisdiction. The move was rejected, but not before the global propaganda media seized on it as proof that only tyrants are concerned about national sovereignty.

Kremlin officials later criticized the pact, though they allowed it to pass without filing a formal objection. The only real official criticism came from Argentinian authorities, who publicly "distanced" their government from the pact after allowing it to be adopted unchallenged. "Argentina wants the freedom to develop itself, without being subjected to the undue weight of decisions that are alien to our goals," said Foreign Minister Diana Mondino, adding that Argentinian authorities are pursuing a policy of freedom.

Dissenting voice: Javier Milei, the president of Argentina, torched the UN, calling it "socialist" in his speech to the General Assembly.

AP Images

The New American

Doublespeak: The UN secretary-general's spokesman, Stéphane Dujarric, defended world government while telling journalists that the Pact for the Future is not about world government.

In his colorful speech at the summit, libertarian firebrand Argentinian President Javier Milei blasted the UN 2030 Agenda, which features prominently in the pact, as a "supranational program of a socialist nature." Among many other criticisms, Milei slammed the global organization's central role in prescribing what he described as "crimes against humanity" to deal with Covid.

Opposition in the United States has always existed, but is growing quickly. In fact, the UN summit was held on the heels of a major event outside the U.S. Capitol vowing to resist the agreement. On September 17, just days before the summit, a coalition of U.S. congressmen, foreign-policy experts, and faith leaders summoned the press and denounced the impending UN power grab disguised as a "pact."

"It looks like they are attempting to sell out our sovereignty once again with this agreement," said Representative Eli Crane (R-Ariz.) at the press conference. Representative Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), the former leader of the House Freedom Caucus, was also blunt: "We can't give up any more of our sovereignty, any more of our geopolitical integrity, or any more of our economic integrity to foreign actors who have no concerns for the United States of America other than to take our power and money away."

After the pact was approved, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas) also blasted it. "Though legally non-binding, this 66-page pact is limitless in scope," the congressman told *The Epoch Times*. "It calls for dramatically increased public spending and vague 'action' on countless left-wing priorities. The pact also completely ignores the most urgent issues facing the UN today, like reforming [the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East] and combatting malign [Chinese Communist Party] influence. It does nothing to advance U.S. interests, and the Biden administration should never have signed it."

Already, more than half of U.S. governors have publicly pledged to resist UN dictates in their respective states. Meanwhile, for the first time, Congress currently has bills to end U.S. involvement in the UN in both houses of Congress: House Bill 6645 and Senate Bill 3428, both labeled the "DEFUND Act." The issue is quickly becoming mainstream following Trump's unprecedented assault on UN agencies and schemes during his first term in the White House that saw the U.S. government leave multiple key global organs.

UN: Nothing to See Here

Asked by *The New American* about the concerns and growing opposition across the United States, UN Secretary-General Guterres' spokesman Stéphane Dujarric defended the new scheme. "The Pact for the Future is not about world government," he responded during a press conference. "It is about making an organization of independent, sovereign member states work better."

"It's not as if anyone is granting the Secretary-General authority over governments — clearly not," continued Dujarric. "This is about bringing sovereign, independent countries, and working together."

However, right after downplaying the concerns, he provided a vigorous defense for globalism. Among other arguments, Dujarric said increasing international cooperation was critical because "not one country can deal with the rising seas, not one country can deal with global pandemics, not one country can deal with international terrorism." He urged people to read original documents to become well informed and "make up their own minds." *The New American* makes the same recommendation.

Prior to the summit, there was virtually no coverage of the UN meeting or the pact that governments and the UN spent almost a year negotiating. The Establishment media in the United States and across the world was radio silent — and that is no doubt by design. If and when Americans learn what the UN is up to, Congress would almost certainly be compelled by a public outcry to stop funding it at the very least.

The John Birch Society has been calling for a full U.S. withdrawal from the UN since the early 1960s. Now is the time for members and all Americans to redouble their efforts, capitalize on the momentum, warn their fellow patriots, and deal a devastating blow to the cause of globalism. ■

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UN Blueprint for Global Control

World leaders gathered in New York City for the UN Summit of the Future, where they agreed to further empower the United Nations in another step toward globalism.
(November 11, 2024) TNA241111

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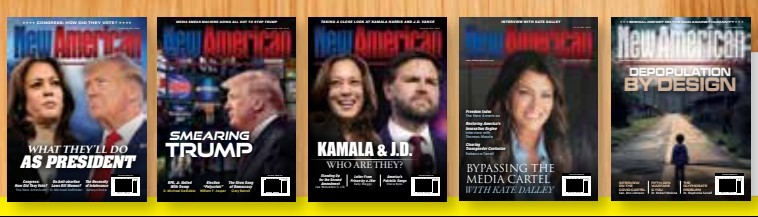
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Kamala Harris would end free speech, grant amnesty to illegal aliens, and impose communist policies under the guise of "equity."**(October 28, 2024) TNA241028**

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Kamala & J.D.: Who Are They?

Kamala Harris is now the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, and J.D. Vance is Donald Trump's pick for V.P. Here we take a close look at both politicians. **(August 26, 2024) TNA240826**

Bypassing the Media Cartel, With Kate Dalley

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Clean-up crew: A panel on "Information Integrity and News," led by UN Department of Global Communications head Melissa Fleming (left), discussed cleaning up our "information ecosystems."

The New American

JOURNALISM ON THE UN'S CHOPPING BLOCK

The UN Summit of the Future revealed the UN's efforts to effectively control the media narrative going forward, ending true journalism as we know it.

by Andrew Muller

UNITED NATIONS — My colleague Alex Newman, a senior editor for *The New American*, and I were on the ground at the UN Summit of the Future in New York City, September 22-23, 2024. We observed supercharged efforts from the organization to censor journalists, cleanse what they label "information ecosystems," and bolster taxpayer-funded media. While the censorship of information online is not a new phenomenon, this fanaticism from the UN is indicative of their preparations to ensure a watertight media, acting in lockstep to positively report on present and upcoming UN power grabs.

Andrew Muller is a writer, researcher, and speaker on America's religious and constitutional heritage, with the specific goal of sharing a biblical worldview and Americanism.

Censoring True Journalism

On the first day of our on-the-ground coverage of the summit, after acquiring our accredited press passes, Newman and I were immediately directed to what UN security called the "media tent," a semipermanent white structure located on the north-side garden of UN headquarters. Inside, approximately 10 to 15 large flatscreen televisions were arranged, broadcasting UN-TV — a livestream of the speakers presenting to the General Assembly and available to the public on YouTube. Journalists were asked repeatedly to stay near and within the tent. Coffee and snacks were sold therein, so there was no reason to leave, and virtually every journalist in attendance never did.

Seeing that there were no scoops to obtain and no interviews to conduct in a stuffy tent with journalists from nearly every major country on earth — except America, which we will address later — Newman and I set out to scour the premises to conduct real journalism, interviewing UN movers and shakers in their natural habitats, unscripted.

Very quickly, we recognized that to get near meeting chambers, offices, and hallways where officials would appear, we needed to obtain an escort through the UN Media Accreditation Liaison Unit (MALU). Even with an escort, most areas were strictly prohibited. We were told "Defcon 5" security was in place, and journalism was no exception.

Members of the media were provided with a brief daily summary of the events that would take place during the day. Nearly all the listed events were inaccessible to the press, and more than half were simply quick opportunities to take pictures of foreign leaders upon arrival, with no questions allowed. Locations of the events were poorly labeled, and no maps were provided or displayed throughout the

entire UN campus. Newman and I are convinced this was by design to discourage media presence.

Determined to do our jobs despite the hurdles, we decided to hunt down the UN Press Briefing Room, which we discovered was located in room S-237. We obtained a MALU escort, a young 20-something from Hong Kong, who said she was willing to help us find the briefing room.

After bypassing multiple levels of security under her direction, and being passed off from escort to escort, we found out we were headed not toward the press briefing room but to the secure UN office building and the 27th floor.

Somehow, our Communist Chinese escorts, most likely in ignorance, misread "UN Press Briefing Room — S-237" and only absorbed the "2" and the "7," taking us directly into a high-level security area. The elevator doors opened. We made a turn and encountered UN guards in ceremonial attire posted in the hallway. Their initial confusion at seeing us turned into concern as they began to question our presence after glancing at our credentials, which displayed a large "P" for press.

The armed guards quickly called the elevator and forced us out, as a swarm of UN police observed our gear and every move. The 27th floor, we later found out, was the location where UN Secretary-General António Guterres received presidents, prime ministers, potentates, and dictators for photo-ops and meetings.

Upon arriving back onto the second floor, where we began, we were handed off to an older Communist Chinese escort, who was extraordinarily hostile, questioning how we were able to bypass security and get so far from the media tent. She refused to believe that the younger escort could so foolishly take us behind the curtain.

While telling us off for being journalists during our escorted exit from the building, the senior Chinese UN official took us down a large corridor covered in explicitly Marxist art. One large mural caught my eye: a scene of workers removing the earth's natural materials, surrounded by ancient-looking characters, dead bodies, and skeletons with machinery protruding in their remains. At the center, men are constructing a new earth, made of steel. And at the top of the new world, a four-armed man is placing the UN seal on the crown of the newly erected earth.

Naturally, I whipped out my camera to photograph the art. I believed then, as I do now, that the painting succinctly depicts the UN's end goal: to destroy God's ordained earth and the institutions therein and replace it with a new world made in man's image.

After snapping two images of the mural, our Chinese escort shouted, "Hey! You're not allowed to film that! Do not take any pictures!" Unfortunately for her, I had already snagged a few shots, which have been published and received thousands of views.

The New American

Man's world: Soviet-style art deep inside UN headquarters depicts individuals erecting a new earth with the UN logo at the center.

American Journalists Look the Other Way While Foreign Media Cheers

Perhaps one of the saddest, and most telling, clues that the media is an accomplice to the UN and its globalist agenda was the lack of American media at the Summit of the Future. Newman and I observed only two other U.S. news outlets on site reporting — The Associated Press and a local New York news outlet. The hundreds of other press members were largely from nations such as China, Pakistan, India, and Sweden.

The lack of American media is shocking considering that 193 nations had representatives present, including some of the most controversial presidents, prime ministers, and royalty such as Volodymyr Zelensky, Justin Trudeau, Joe Biden, and Benjamin Netanyahu. One would think that the American news media would swarm the UN to get photographs and interviews while so many leaders were all in one place.

The reality is that if the press in the United States reported on what the UN was up to, the American people would push back and perhaps support efforts to get the United States out of the UN, as The John Birch Society has been advocating for decades. And yet, they are radio silent.

Lapdogs Versus Watchdogs

Alex Newman correctly labels the press at UN events as the "cheerleading section," and a quick search online for articles "reporting" on the summit proves this label to be accurate. The Associated Press began a report on the summit saying, "The U.N. General Assembly approved a blueprint Sunday to bring the world's increasingly divided nations together." An article from *Forbes* titled "5 Reasons You Should Care About The Summit Of The Future" says, "This event will be a critical step toward a reinvigorated multilateralism that enhances cooperation on critical challenges,

The New American

Lapdogs: International media sipped coffee, sat back, and watched UN-TV from the comfort of the media tent. Most never ventured out to conduct real journalism.

addresses the current gaps in global governance and positively impacts our lives."

We observed no tough questions, and nothing unscripted.

The media even wore the UN's version of a home jersey, the Sustainable Development Goals pin. At any given time, I could look and see journalists proudly displaying support for the UN's agenda by wearing the pin.

Ultimately, the media have become the lapdogs of the globalist elite rather than the watchdogs. They sit when they are told, roll over for a treat, and occasionally bark on command, but they never sniff out a story, dig up a scandal, or alert the public of impending danger.

UN Commits to Cleansing "Information Ecosystems"

On day two of our reporting, Newman and I were pleased to discover that breakout sessions were open to the press, a privilege that was previously denied. The first session we attended was titled "Information Integrity and News."

Moderated by UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming, three speakers comprised the panel: Jonathan Munro, BBC News global director and deputy CEO; Mira Milosevic, executive director of the Global Fund for Media Development; and Fridah Naliaka Simiyu, 2024 Reham al-Farra memorial journalism fellow.

Fleming said during the panel that we "are swimming in toxic information ecosystems." Part of the "toxins" in the "ecosystems" are citizen journalists, explained the BBC's Munro. "I think citizen journalists can be extremely helpful in gathering evidence of what has happened, but they do not very often do much journalism," he opined. "They are more citizens than journalists."

According to Fleming, the answer to cleansing the ecosystems that we all "swim in" is to bolster spending for taxpayer-funded media. "What better service for our information environments out there other than the BBC?" Fleming asked.

The Pact for the Future's Commitment to Control Information

In Objective 3, the UN's Pact for the Future — which Newman analyzes in the cover story of this issue (see page 10) — articulates the UN's efforts to cleanse and control "information integrity."

"We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation of and interference with information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals, and negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals," the adopted agreement states.

This push is in large part a reaction to the Covid-19 crisis, and what the World Health Organization (WHO) labeled an "infodemic." After a few months of the coronavirus craze, Americans began to find voices that dissented from the "experts," such as Dr. Anthony Fauci and those at the National Institutes of Health, WHO, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Platforms such as Rumble, Truth Social, and now Elon Musk's X, alongside publications such as *The New American*, elevated the voices of Dr. Robert Malone, Dr. Peter McCullough, and others who sounded the alarm about the harms of lockdowns and untested vaccines.

From what we observed on the ground, the UN is desperate to make sure that whenever the next "crisis" arises, the "information ecosystem" will be better prepared to offer the public a government-backed narrative of the situation with no dissenting voices.

According to the pact, the UN will "promote access to relevant, reliable and accurate information in crisis situations, to protect and empower those in vulnerable situations."

To achieve this, the pact calls on tech and social-media companies to enhance "content moderation" and "recommendation algorithms" to help users make "informed choices."

This manipulation of the national narrative, either by elevating or censoring various sources of information online through a corrupt merger of state and corporate media power, is in contradiction to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Americans' God-given right to free speech is an essential liberty, which the Constitution plainly protects: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Advocates for global governance are becoming more vocal in their support of censorship and restrictions on alternative media. John Kerry, former special presidential envoy for climate, recently said the quiet part out loud, voicing his frustration with Americans' First Amendment-

The Disrupter: President Trump pulled the United States out of the UN's health arm, the World Health Organization, while cutting significant funding to the UN. Globalist fears are brewing as a second Trump term is imminent.

AP Images

protected rights. "Look, if people go to one source, and the one source they go to is sick and, you know, has an agenda and they're putting out disinformation, our First Amendment stands as a major block to the ability to just hammer it out of existence," he stated in September 2024 at the World Economic Forum.

Kerry further explained why this freedom is so prohibitive to global governance: "People go and people self-select where they go for their news and for their information, and then you just get into a vicious cycle. So, it's really, really hard, much harder to build consensus today than any time in the 45-50 years I've been involved in this."

The UN is determined to eliminate citizens' ability to do their own research, and is banging the war drums louder than ever before to accomplish that end.

Battening Down the Hatches for Trump

After spending a couple of days among the leaders of the world's most influential nations, I sensed a common thread of concern: a potential second term of former President Donald Trump.

A little more than six years ago, on September 25, 2018, President Trump addressed the UN General Assembly, thundering, "America will always choose independence and cooperation over global governance, control, and domination."

Such rhetoric from Trump was a bucket of cold water in the face of the global elite. And they have not forgotten about it.

The Council on Foreign Relations, which is the American brain and public face of what many would call the "swamp" or "Deep State," published on its website disgust for Donald Trump's reduction of U.S. financial support for the UN: "UN agencies, programs, and missions receive crucial funding from the United States. The Trump administration sharply reduced funding to some UN agencies, but President Biden has largely reversed those cuts…. The United States remains the largest donor to the United Nations. It contributed more than $18 billion in 2022, accounting for one-third of funding for the body's collective budget. Despite President Donald Trump's efforts to cut funding, President Joe Biden has affirmed the United Nations' importance to U.S. foreign policy and increased funding to the organization."

Newman and I asked multiple attendees of the summit what they believed the UN needed to do if Trump were reelected. "I think it would mean coming together for an even stronger Summit of the Future," one attendee noted. Another told us that, although he knows Trump is the "favorite of the U.S.A.," Kamala Harris is "very competent and very strong."

Ultimately, I sensed that the globalists' play was to defeat Donald Trump not through an electoral steal on November 5, but by launching a large-scale crisis and blaming it on the America First ideology and its leader. To achieve this end, the "information ecosystem" must be ready to withstand the incoming storm.

The Summit of the Future established a path toward bolstering global taxpayer-funded government media, hammering independent press, and working with private companies to rig algorithms. To overcome the UN's war on honest journalism, the remnants of the free press must commit to being watchdogs, breaking free of the lapdog loyalty that has been the norm for the nearly eight decades of UN history. ■

ILLEGAL-ALIEN CRIME RAMPAGE

660K illegal-alien criminals, including 13,000 killers, are roaming the streets. As they rob, rape, and murder Americans, Biden does nothing.

AP Images

Enemies at the gate: Among the millions of illegal aliens released at the southwest border on the long-standing orders of President Joe Biden are more than 660,000 criminals, including some 13,000 killers.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

Nursing student Laken Riley and young Kayla Hamilton are dead for one reason: The Biden administration's orchestrated invasion of "migrants" and illegal aliens at the southwest border.

Jose Ibarra, a Venezuelan "migrant" who murdered Riley on a jogging trail in Athens, Georgia, was caught and released at the border, pursuant to President Joe Biden's long-standing orders. Walter Martinez, also caught and released, murdered 20-year-old Hamilton in Harford County, Maryland.

Yet those thugs are only two of hundreds of thousands of rapists, murderers, and other illegal-alien criminals now roaming the country.

In a letter to GOP U.S. Representative Tony Gonzales of Texas in September, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reported that border authorities have released some 662,000 illegal-alien criminals into the heartland, into towns and cities, into your hometown. Some are convicts. Others are charged with crimes. All are the criminal detritus and debris of the Third World.

Frighteningly enough, ICE personnel have the "discretion" to release whomever they wish — whenever the fancy strikes them. So border-jumping illegals have free rein to rob, rape, and murder Americans with little fear of being caught or deported.

Still, alarming as the army of foreign criminals is, it is only a small fraction of the tens of millions of illegals and "migrants" pouring into the country — some of them terrorists, others from hostile nations — hoping for a ride on Biden's Gravy Train.

The Numbers

ICE confessed to Gonzales that almost 440,000 of the 662,000 are convicted criminals; nearly 227,000 are criminal suspects. More than 13,000 are murderers. More than 25,000 are sex fiends.

"As of July 21, 2024, there were 662,566 noncitizens with criminal histories on ICE's national docket, which includes those detained by ICE, and on the agency's non-detained docket," ICE's Patrick Lechleitner wrote. "Of those, 435,719 are convicted criminals, and 226,847 have pending criminal charges." The data also include the crimes they committed or with which they are charged.

Lechleitner broke down the numbers in an eye-opening, almost frightening chart. Of the convicted criminals on the loose, 13,099 are murderers, while 25,272 are sex criminals. Another 62,231 committed assault; 2,521 are kidnappers. Another 1,845 have been charged with homicide; 6,900 are charged with sex crimes. Almost 43,000 are charged with assault.

"ICE is bound by statutory requirements not to release certain noncitizens from ICE custody during the pendency of removal proceedings and notes that most noncitizens who are convicted of homicide are typically not eligible for release" under the Immigration and Nationality Act, Lechleitner wrote.

And "ICE officers may use their discretion in making custody determinations and release noncitizens with conditions," the letter continued.

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to The New American. *He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.*

Biden Administration Denies Numbers

Remarkably (or perhaps not), the White House has denied that Biden's "migrants" and illegal aliens are running amok, doing what they wish, when they wish, to whom they wish, including raping and murdering American women.

During a news conference, Fox News' Peter Doocy cornered White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, a far-left Haitian immigrant with a vested interest in defending criminal aliens. Her countrymen are wrecking Springfield, Ohio, not least by eating the city's wild, avian fauna and hurtling down its streets, causing what a mayoral candidate calls a "car-crash crisis."

"How much danger are U.S. communities in right now?" Doocy asked.

"I think it's important to correct the record here," Jean-Pierre said, unleashing a cephalopodic cloud of disinformation: "It's been fact-checked by some of your colleagues here, by multiple outlets. That has been debunked on what has been falsely misrepresented, misrepresented here. So we have to call that out."

Not really. Doocy rightly asked Jean-Pierre how the data were misrepresented given that they did, after all, come directly from ICE.

"If we're going to report something, data that's out there, we got to do it in a way that is not confusing the American people and certainly not lying," Jean-Pierre said. "If you look at the total returns and removal of the past year, that has been higher than every year under the previous administration since 2010."

But nothing is "confusing" about the data. No one is "lying" about them. They are crystal clear and tell an awful truth. The president of the United States, aided and abetted by Vice President Kamala Harris, has encouraged and subsidized an invasion of the United States. And more than a half-million of those invaders are criminals — that is, their crimes include more than crossing the border illegally.

Rape and Murder

Barely a day goes by that Americans don't read about a Biden "migrant" who has committed a particularly heinous crime. Aside from Ibarra and Martinez, whom Maryland authorities brilliantly permitted to enroll in high school before he pleaded guilty, the Border Patrol — again, under Biden's long-standing orders, which Harris not only did not object to but also fully supported — caught and released these goons:

• Venezuelan Ibarra's two brothers, one of whom is linked to the murderous Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang;

• Venezuelan Biden "migrants" Franklin Jose Pena Ramos and Johan Jose Martinez-Rangel, who are charged with the murder of Jocelyn Nungaray in Houston.

• Peruvian Biden "migrant" Gianfranco Torres-Navarro, who is wanted for 23 murders in his home country and was only captured later, when immigration officials finally checked into this past.

• Nicaraguan Biden "migrant" Daniel Davon-Bonilla, who is charged with raping a woman at knifepoint on New York's Coney Island. A Mexican accomplice clubbed the woman's boyfriend with a metal pipe.

• Senegalese Biden-Harris "migrant" Papa Diop, who is charged with raping a woman on a park bench in the South Bronx in New York City.

• Four Venezuelan Biden "migrants," caught and released at the southwest border, who are charged with attempted murder in Aurora, Colorado. Those "migrants" are part of Tren de Aragua, which now is operating nationwide and has taken over apartment buildings in the city. The Biden administration subsidized the takeover.

• Haitian Biden "migrant" Jefferson Jerome, deported once before he was caught and released at the border, is charged with assault and battery in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

When Biden's Border Patrol isn't catching and releasing criminals at the southwest border, it is "importing" them via an unlawful program that permits would-be illegals to apply for entry on a smartphone application from their home countries. So, rather than trying to jump the border, or showing up at a port of entry in the hope of entering, they have an appointment to enter the nation "legally." One of Biden's programs is to admit 360,000 Haitians, Colombians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans annually. Biden is also flying "migrants" into American

AP Images

There's an app for that: Third World "migrants" can use a smartphone application created by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to set up an appointment to enter the nation "legally," then show up at the border to be released.

AP Images

Open border: Deportations under President Biden and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas have decreased by 75 percent. A federal judge ruled that Mayorkas' "Guidelines for Enforcement of Civil Immigration Laws," which precipitated the nosedive in legally required enforcement, are illegal and unconstitutional.

airports. As of September, BidenAir had flown in 530,000 of them.

Among those flown in are Haitian Biden "migrant" Cory Alvarez, who is charged with the rape of a 15-year-old girl in Rockland, Massachusetts; and Haitian Biden "migrant" Akim Marc Desire, who is charged with molesting a 10-year-old boy in Mansfield, Massachusetts.

Those listed above don't include any among at least 1.7 million illegal-alien gotaways as of May. Gotaways are illegals never caught after jumping the border, such as the Dominican illegal whom authorities have charged with the murder of a family of four in Irondequoit, New York.

Warning Letter

At this writing, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data show that border agents have encountered 10.3 million illegals nationwide since Biden's first full month in office, February 2021. Some 8.3 million of those were at the southwest border.

The numbers are so alarming that in January, 10 former FBI officials warned in a letter to top elected leaders on Capitol Hill that Biden's illegal border policies have endangered national security.

They said that the "country is being invaded."

"Military aged men from across the globe, many from countries or regions not friendly to the United States, are landing in waves on our soil by the thousands — not by splashing ashore from a ship or parachuting from a plane but rather by foot across a border that has been accurately advertised around the world as largely unprotected with ready access granted," they wrote. "A startling number had been found on the terror watch list or are from countries designated as state sponsors of terror or distinctly unfriendly to the United States."

The officials called the men part of "an accelerated and strategic penetration, a soft invasion." Because the country cannot be invaded militarily, hostile powers are sending in "migrants" to set up operations "to inflict catastrophic damage."

Proving their point are nine Biden "migrants" caught and released at the border. In June, ICE agents arrested eight Tajik Biden-Harris "migrants," ISIS-linked terrorists later arrested for plotting a bomb attack.

ICE also arrested a Somali Biden "migrant" later determined to be a member of the al-Shabaab terror outfit.

Again, those "migrants" were caught and released at the border.

This fiscal year, border agents have stopped 469 terrorists at ports of entry or trying to jump the border, CBP data show. Given the number of gotaways, many more terrorists are almost certainly in the country.

As for other hostiles, 170,000 Chinese nationals have landed at the border since February 1, 2021. What they are up to we can only speculate.

Bottom line: Immigration authorities have no idea who is entering the country on Biden's orders, gleefully carried out by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

In September 2021, Mayorkas crafted what a federal judge later called "unlawful policies" that were released in his "Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Laws."

Notably, Mayorkas essentially ended deportations, now called "removals." Illegal entry is no longer considered a deportable offense.

"A noncitizen who poses a current threat to public safety, typically because of serious criminal conduct, is a priority for apprehension and removal," Mayorkas wrote. But "whether a noncitizen poses a current threat to public safety is not to be determined according to bright lines or categories. It instead requires an assessment of the individual and the totality of the facts and circumstances."

Though an illegal alien's crime or crimes might be "aggravating factors that militate in favor of enforcement action," he wrote, "there can be mitigating factors that militate in favor of declining enforcement action."

Not surprisingly, the list of "mitigating factors" is almost twice as long as the list of "aggravating factors."

The "mitigating factors" include an illegal's age, how long he has lived here, being a crime victim, the effect of removal on loved ones, military service of the illegal or his family, the time since his last crime, and whether a conviction was overturned. Even mental illness can keep an illegal in the country. Of course, even if he isn't crazy, he can obviously fake it to avoid deportation.

No wonder deportations of criminals, as the *Daily Mail* has reported, have dropped 75 percent during Biden's presidency.

ICE has deported just 134,617 illegal-alien criminals. Meanwhile, nearly 700,000 are apparently here to stay. ■

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Biden's Unconstitutional Overreach on Guns

President Biden's latest executive order on gun control, in the name of combating "gun violence," is just another unconstitutional expansion of presidential power.

AP Images

Rule by decree: President Biden signs his latest round of gun control as a way to bypass Congress and the Constitution.

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

In a union founded on the principle of limited government, every action taken by the president of the United States must be weighed against the Constitution, the supreme law of the land. However, recent executive orders, such as the one on firearms regulation, reveal an alarming disregard for constitutional boundaries. The latest decree from the Executive Branch, which seeks to coordinate a federal response to "emerging firearms threats," is fraught with unconstitutional overreach, violating both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution.

Joe Wolverton II, J.D. is The John Birch Society's constitutional law scholar.

Executive Overreach

To begin with, the executive order, announced by the Biden administration on September 26, boldly declares that the president and his administration have "taken more executive action to reduce gun violence than any other administration." While this might seem laudable on the surface, it raises an important question: Does the Constitution allow the president to wield such unilateral power over gun control?

The short answer is no. Article II of the Constitution defines the powers of the president, and the authority to regulate firearms is not among them. Any legislation governing the ownership, manufacture, or sale of firearms must originate in Congress, as per Article I, Section 8, which grants all legislative powers to the representatives of the people. The president's role, as outlined in Article II, Section 3, is to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," not to create new laws through executive action.

In bypassing the legislative branch and issuing executive orders that attempt to regulate firearms, the president is violating the separation of powers, a cornerstone of the Constitution designed to prevent the consolidation of unchecked power in any one branch of government. Such consolidation is nothing less than an attempt to transform the White House into a palace, with the president sitting enthroned as king.

The Second Amendment

The most glaring constitutional violation in this executive order is its direct assault on the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment explicitly protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms, a right that "shall not be infringed." The order, however, seeks to infringe on this right by empowering federal agencies to monitor and regulate firearms in ways that circumvent the legislative process.

Take, for instance, the executive order's focus on 3D-printed firearms and so-called ghost guns. These firearms are presented as a dire threat to public safety, but the Constitution does not grant the federal government the authority to restrict how law-abiding citizens manufacture or modify their personal firearms. As the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia noted in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms in common use for lawful purposes, including self-defense. There is no constitutional provision that limits the method by which these firearms are created.

Moreover, Biden's new executive order claims that firearms without serial numbers

AP Images

Ghostbusters: The federal government's crackdown on so-called ghost guns (unserialized firearms and firearm components) is a clear violation of the Second Amendment and will do nothing to keep Americans safer.

— so-called ghost guns — are a serious problem because they cannot be traced by law enforcement. But the Constitution does not require law-abiding citizens to register their firearms or submit them to governmental oversight. The right to keep and bear arms, as stated in the Second Amendment, is not conditional upon the government's ability to track every gun in existence. In point of fact, the Second Amendment is a strident and steadfast rejection of any and all attempts by the federal government to infringe upon in any manner whatsoever the natural right of the people to protect themselves by the use of firearms.

10th Amendment Violations

The 10th Amendment to the Constitution reserves to the states and the people all powers not explicitly delegated to the federal government. Firearms regulation is one such power. Not only does the U.S. Constitution not grant to the federal government authority to dictate how states manage their own gun laws, but the Second Amendment to that document specifically forbids such prohibitions. Regardless, the Biden-Harris administration, by issuing this executive order, seeks to establish an interagency task force that coordinates with state, local, and tribal law enforcement to enforce federal gun regulations. This encroachment on states' rights is not only unconstitutional, but also contrary to the foundational principle of federalism.

In fact, it is the states that have historically regulated firearms, and they should continue to do so, free from federal interference. The Constitution reserves this power to the states, a principle reiterated by the Supreme Court in cases such as *Printz v. United States*, in which the Court ruled that the federal government cannot compel state law enforcement to implement federal gun-control measures.

Threats to Due Process

Another troubling aspect of this executive order is the potential erosion of due-process protections. The order calls for the seizure of 3D printers used to manufacture firearms, as well as the confiscation of machine gun conversion devices. However, it fails to provide clear guidance on how these seizures will be conducted in accordance with the Fourth and Fifth Amendments, which protect against unreasonable searches and seizures and guarantee the right to due process.

Under this executive order, citizens could face the confiscation of their property without proper judicial oversight. The order empowers federal agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to seize firearms and equipment based on broad, undefined criteria, raising the specter of arbitrary enforcement and the denial of citizens' rights to challenge such actions in court.

A Slippery Slope to Tyranny

Finally, the order's emphasis on collaboration between federal agencies to combat "emerging firearms threats" raises concerns about the centralization of power. By empowering unelected, unaccountable, and unidentified bureaucrats to regulate firearms without congressional approval, the executive order increases the growth of the tumor of tyranny in the federal government. History has shown that the consolidation of power in the hands of the few is the quickest path to tyranny, and this executive order, if left unchecked, would pave the way for even more severe infringements on the rights of the American people.

The Constitution was designed to prevent exactly this type of executive overreach. It is not the role of the president to legislate from the Oval Office, nor is it the role of federal agencies to impose sweeping regulations that infringe on fundamental rights. The Founders understood the dangers of centralized power, which is why they established a system of checks and balances to protect individual liberty.

Conclusion

The executive order on firearms regulation is not only unconstitutional, but also a direct assault on the natural rights of the American people to defend their lives, liberty, and property from all who would threaten them, whether the aggressor be an individual or a government gone rogue. It violates the Second Amendment by infringing on the right to keep and bear arms explicitly protected from such federal action. It also disregards the separation of powers, infringes on states' rights, and threatens due-process protections as provided by the Bill of Rights. If we allow the federal government to continue down this path, we risk losing the very freedoms that the Constitution was designed to protect.

It is the duty of every citizen to remain vigilant in defending the Constitution from those who seek to undermine it, even when those efforts are disguised as measures to "save lives." The only way to ensure that our rights are preserved is to reject unconstitutional overreach, no matter the form it takes.

As the inimitable Algernon Sidney wrote in *Discourses Concerning Government*, "He that without law brings a people under his power, I look on as a tyrant, thief, public enemy, against whom every man is a soldier." ■

Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

Charity Disparity: The Virtue That Can Only Be Practiced Privately

by Selwyn Duke

"We make a living by what we get," said Winston Churchill, "but we make a life by what we give." Well more than 2,000 years before, ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu also sang charity's praises.

"The wise man does not lay up his own treasures," he averred. "The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own." There's also the saying, "Charity is the lifeblood of a compassionate society." This raises a question, too:

If we were to "outsource" all our good works to government — and even assuming they then remained "good" — would society's compassion not die like a blood-starved limb?

This issue is front and center currently with ferocious Hurricane Helene's ravaging of western North Carolina and parts of Georgia and South Carolina. As of this writing, the exact death toll is unknown, with some saying it may top 1,000. Yet this example of the worst of nature has been met by the best, and perhaps worst, of man. The finest-hour part would be an overwhelming exhibition of charitable endeavor, with Americans, long known as the world's most generous people, rising nobly to the occasion. In fact, one source holds that the "vast majority of rescue work that is being done is with civilian helicopters," to provide one example. Then there's the darker side: We've heard stories about how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is in the stricken areas, is not only impeding charitable efforts, but is sometimes threatening to arrest citizens who'd dare cross its red-tape lines.

Also enraging people is hearing that, as the *New York Post* claimed October 3, "Feds say there's no money left to respond to hurricanes — after FEMA spent $1.4B on migrants." The agency has countered this, saying that its spending in hurricane-affected areas topped $210 million as of October 7. This, however, is dwarfed by the approximately quarter *trillion* dollars Ukraine has received in U.S. aid in an effort that, among other effects, moves us closer to thermonuclear war with Russia. Yet while a storm of accusations will whirl in these situations, and while people will dispute the facts, what's unchanging is the Truth. This brings us to this essay's main question: How is charity best administered, privately or publicly? And, could this be a sort of trick question?

First off, I'll emphasize that government certainly can have a role, *in accordance with the Constitution*, in rescue operations and other emergency services; we certainly accept, for example,

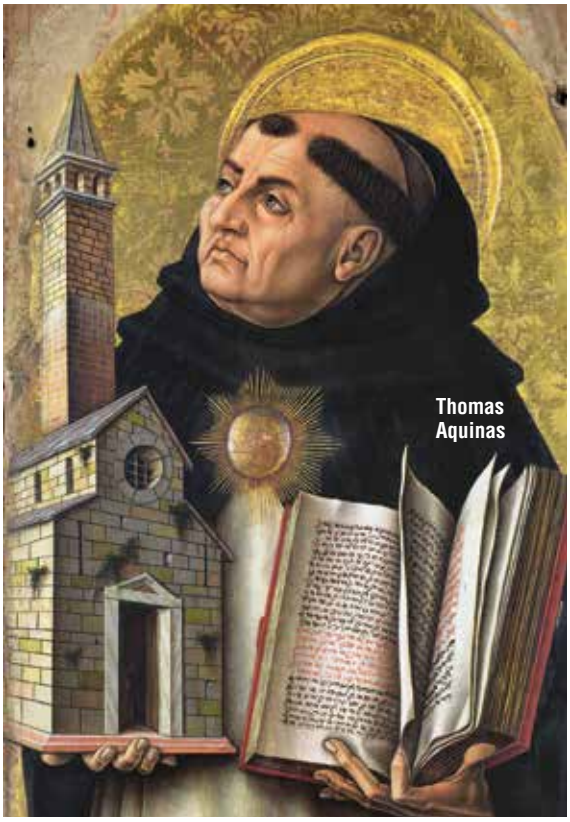
Charity in action: Volunteers unload cases of water and other donated supplies outside St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

AP Images

Selwyn Duke has written for The New American *for more than a decade. He has also written for* The Hill, *Observer,* The American Conservative, *WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.*

local government police and fire departments. Yet what role should government have in charity?

Late journalist and author P.J. O'Rourke certainly had his answer. "A politician who portrays himself as 'caring' and 'sensitive' because he wants to expand the government's charitable programs is merely saying that he's willing to try to do good with other people's money. Well, who isn't?" he famously wrote. "And a voter who takes pride in supporting such programs is telling us that he'll do good with his own money — if a gun is held to his head." Yet O'Rourke was wrong, at least about one matter: "Charitable government program" is an oxymoron.


Thomas Aquinas

"Charity brings to life again those who are spiritually dead."
— Thomas Aquinas

First consider that while people generally associate "charity" with freely provided material aid, it actually encompasses far more. For it is, do note, a *virtue*; i.e., part of that unchanging and objective set of good moral habits. Medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas even called it "the most excellent of the virtues," one that "unites us to God." This is reflected in the word "charity's" origins, with the Online Etymology Dictionary informing that in late Old English it sometimes referred to "Christian love in its highest manifestation." In fact, as Aquinas put it, "The habit of charity extends not only to the love of God, but also the love of our neighbor." So far from being merely the benevolent act of giving things, important though that frequently is, charity is an *attitude*, a moral habit, just one of whose manifestations is the love-catalyzed provision of material aid to the needy.

Now, it's often pointed out, while explaining why man was gifted free will, that without it there could be no love. For it's only love if someone could have elected to be unloving, but *chose* the better portion. Likewise, since love is integral to charity, is it really charity when not freely offered? Moreover, is it charitable when it involves no personal sacrifice, when the shirt given is off somebody else's back? So what can we say about government programs, where good is done with other people's money or at the end of someone's gun? They might *occasionally* be necessary, *should* always be constitutional, and sometimes might even do more good than harm — but charity they are not.

Nonetheless, the debate ever rages over what precisely is the government's role. Who should do what? The answer lies in the long-understood principle of "subsidiarity": i.e., that the smallest possible unit of society that can perform a given task should do so. For instance, what the family can do must not be outsourced to a larger entity, not even a private organization. This explains, too, one reason why our Constitution grants most powers to the states and people: The feds mustn't be involved in what can be handled lower down the food chain — that is, most everything.

One reason for this relates to service. Where would you expect to be treated better, at the motor-vehicle bureau or a mom-and-pop store — or a church food pantry? Oh, there are some good people working at government agencies. But the absence of the profit motive, and the absence *in principle* of the charity motive, is problematic. The store owner prospers by serving you, and the church worker volunteers usually because his heart is in the act of service. Most bureaucrats, however, would be elsewhere if not for the paycheck, which, mind you, is the same whether they leave you satisfied or seething.

This lack of both the profit and love motives, and the absence of the need to survive among competitors for your "business," also yields great inefficiency. Just consider that studies "have found that 70% of the money spent on budgeting for government assistance gets spent upholding the bureaucracies, with only 30% actually going to the poor," related the Foundation for Economic Education in 2021. Private charities reverse this: They "give over 70% of their proceeds to the poor," the site continued.

"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are, 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'"
— President Ronald Reagan

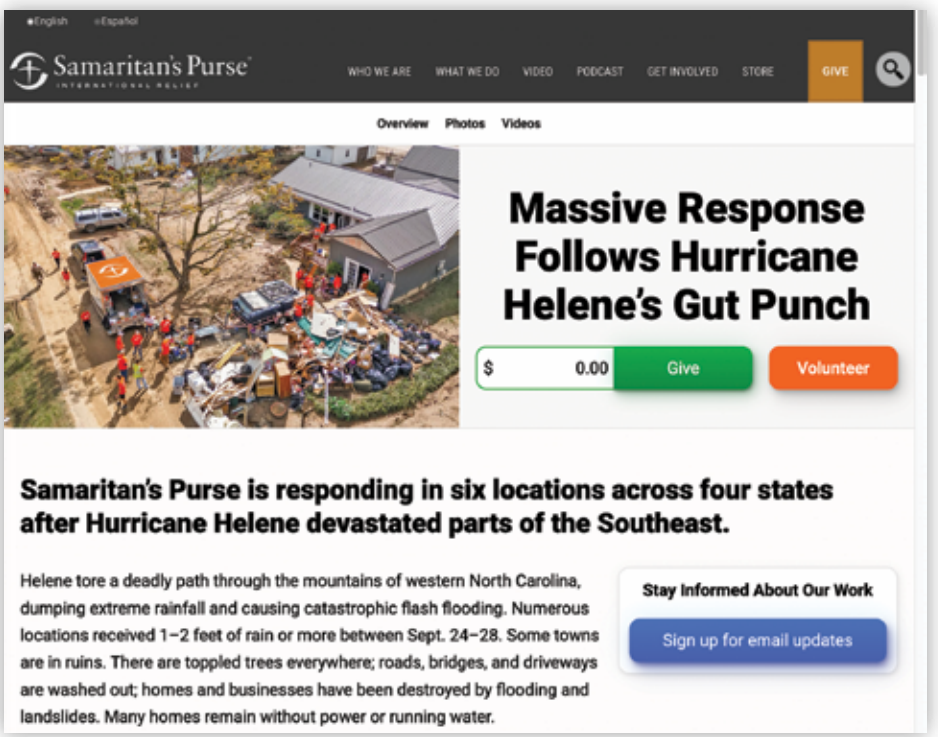
Sadder still is that in certain cases, government might do better getting the percentage of its assistance-budgeting money that's delivered to the poor down to zero. Why? Prior to the "war on poverty," Americans were already lifting themselves from penury. Not only was the U.S. poverty rate declining in general, but consider the black community, for which, it has been claimed, welfare-like programs are most specifically de-

signed. Black families' poverty rate "fell from 87 percent in 1940 to 47 percent in 1960, during an era of virtually no major civil rights legislation or anti-poverty programs," related economics professor Thomas Sowell in 2004. It dropped slightly less than that — 17 percentage points — on a per-decade basis in the '60s. And what happened in the '70s, once anti-poverty programs were in full swing? It fell *one* point, five percent as much as during the pre-big-government-program era. Explanation?

In part, government's "handouts encouraged people to become dependent on handouts. Learned helplessness, it's called," asserted investigative journalist John Stossel in 2022. "Welfare created an 'underclass,' generations of people who don't work. They'd lose benefits if they do," he continued. "Generations of people bear children but don't marry. They'd lose benefits if they do." Now, in fairness, there's a strong moral/cultural component to this, too, though that's beyond this article's scope. (Explaining man's behavior solely by way of economic influences is the Marxist mistake.) Regardless, correlation does not favor the statist thesis. And what's for sure is that this is "why charity is better," to quote Stossel again. "Charity workers can make judgments about who needs help and who needs a push."

What about, however, another tragic phenomenon: When government actually gives charity workers a push — out of the charity business? The Hurricane Helene situation is a sad example of this, too. There are seemingly credible reports of government officials "stealing" donated goods and stymieing private relief efforts. Just consider the case of Jordan Seidhom and his son, Landon. Having a background in law enforcement and firefighting, and being a pilot who owns his own helicopter, Seidhom decided to help families he heard were stranded in North Carolina. And help he did, dropping off supplies and rescuing multiple storm victims.

That is, until he encountered a jobsworth fire official who threatened him with arrest if he didn't leave the area.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Samaritan's Purse is responding in six locations across four states after Hurricane Helene devastated parts of the Southeast.
Helene tore a deadly path through the mountains of western North Carolina, dumping extreme rainfall and causing catastrophic flash flooding. Numerous locations received 1–2 feet of rain or more between Sept. 24–28. Some towns are in ruins. There are toppled trees everywhere; roads, bridges, and driveways are washed out; homes and businesses have been destroyed by flooding and landslides. Many homes remain without power or running water.
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The man even insisted Seidhom not pick up his co-pilot son, whom he'd left in a rescue spot with a victim! (The small helicopter obviously could carry only so much weight.) Seidhom defied the command and did pick up his son, but had to depart. He's certain, too, that the official's decision endangered lives.

While that official was perhaps on a power trip, let us be charitable ourselves. Let us acknowledge that most people working in government are just that, people, not demons bent on destruction. Yet even the best intentions can't eliminate an intractable government-program problem: red tape. But something else can. And a good example of such occurred after Hurricane Katrina hit southeast Mississippi in 2005. FEMA was on the job then also, controlling a Camp Shelby staging area loaded with supplies, including 18-wheelers full of ice.

The problem, Forrest County Sheriff Billy McGee found, was that the supplies weren't being released in a timely fashion to those in need. And on the fourth day after the storm, and after getting a bureaucratic runaround, he'd had enough. He then gave a master class on cutting red tape.

After having words with a FEMA representative at the staging area, he and five deputies had begun the process of commandeering the ice trucks — when an armed guardsman intervened. "We asked him to get off the truck, told him we were taking the truck, that he was obstructing," McGee told WDAM 7 in 2015. "He refused to [get off], and so we removed him from the truck, handcuffed him, put him in a patrol car so we could all get out of there." So McGee and desperate victims got their ice and FEMA and a guardsman got educated — in what happens when you "try that in a small town."

"Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." — Mother Teresa

Transitioning from uplifting history to uplifting news, charity is, thankfully, making a difference for Hurricane He-

lene's victims. A GoFundMe campaign launched by President Donald Trump has raised $7.7 million for survivors, Christian organization Samaritan's Purse is on the scene providing relief, and Elon Musk is sending North Carolina Starlink terminals to facilitate communication. And as American Thinker wrote October 4, describing relief efforts, the stories of charity remind us

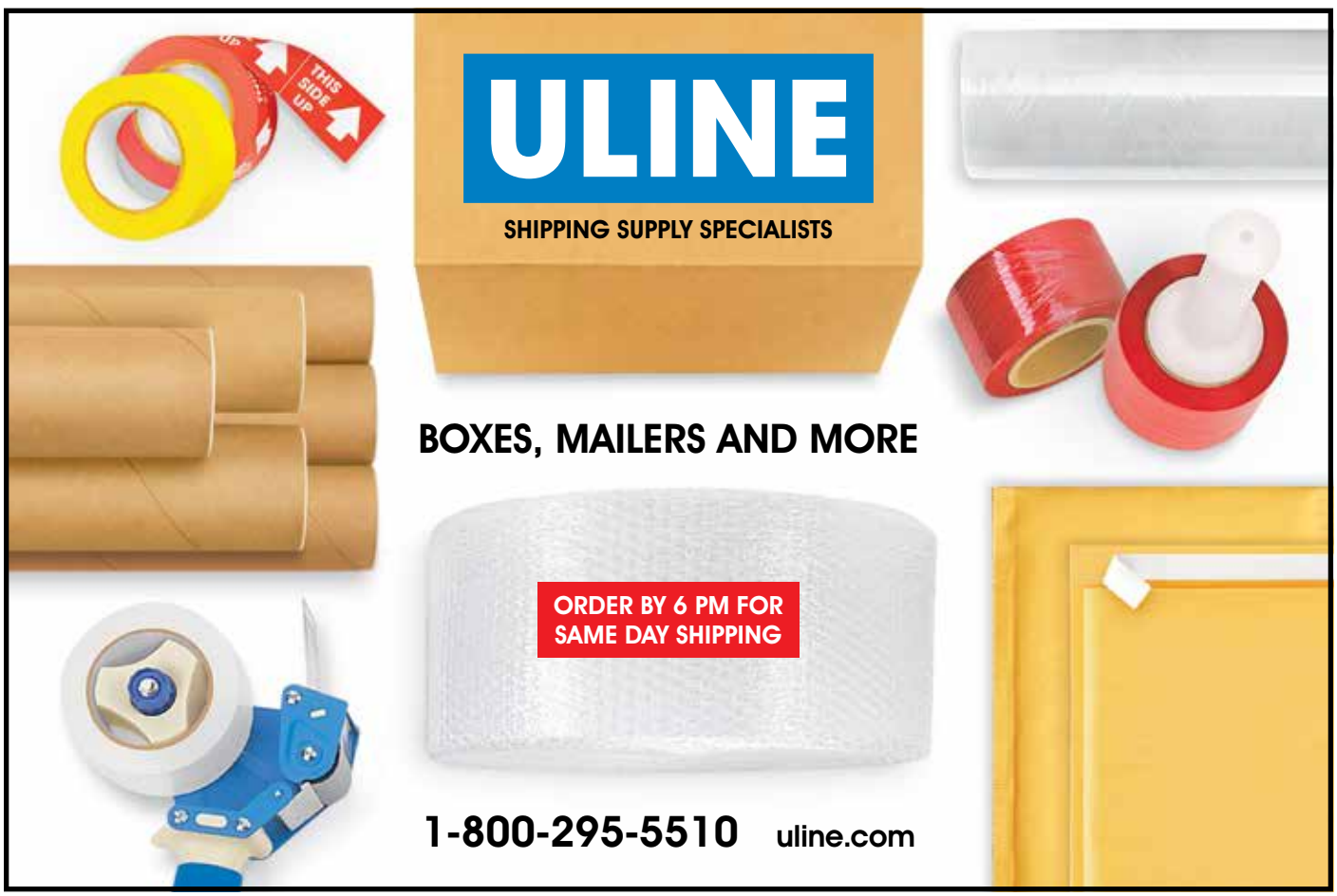
> of who we are. People who have the resources and talents are tirelessly helping others locate loved ones, provide food and essentials, and dig out. People are willing to house families and farm animals in their own homes and farms that weren't damaged, or were less damaged. Restaurants and stores are opening their doors to give out free food. Gyms are opening to the public to offer showers. Mule teams are being assembled to traverse areas inaccessible to vehicles.

Why, even Jordan Seidhom is back in action. A Temporary Flight Restriction that was issued after his confrontation with the imperious official was lifted the next day and, says Seidhom, the government is now "basically begging for these helicopters." The military choppers sent to the area, he explains, are too large to land in the rescue locations' tight confines.

"Charity is the bridge that connects hearts." — Noah Collins

Of course, it's beautiful and necessary that people's material needs are being met. It's also fine if the government contributes (constitutionally); a disaster is an all-hands-on-deck situation. The big picture, however, is that man does not live on bread alone. The more we outsource good works to the state and supplant charity, the more people get the message, "That's the government's job." This is tragic because, over a nation's lifetime, charity's greatest effect is that which preserves civilizations: moral and spiritual. Charity doesn't just feed a man, but feeds the souls of recipient and giver; it's doesn't just clothe a child, but clothes him and his helper in fellowship; it doesn't just quench a woman's thirst, but quenches that deep desire to show and receive love; it doesn't just connect the needy with life-giving aid, but connects beneficiary and benefactor, more closely, to the spirit of God.

So an act of charity can save the day, but a habit of charity can save all our tomorrows. ■



Helene's Heroes

Hurricane Helene tore through the American Southeast with unrelenting force, leaving a trail of devastation in its path. Making landfall near Perry, Florida, on Thursday, September 26, the storm unleashed torrential rain and severe winds, causing catastrophic flooding that inundated homes, washed away roads, and left entire communities submerged. Even north of Florida, in cities such as Atlanta, residents experienced their first-ever flash-flood emergency as rivers and streams surged beyond their banks, trapping people in their homes and vehicles. Emergency crews were overwhelmed, engaging in countless high-water rescues as families sought safety in the face of rising waters.

Yet, even in the midst of Helene's destruction, stories of American resilience and heroism began to emerge, showcasing the strength of the human spirit in the face of nature's devastation. While the damage was widespread and lives were upended, there were countless acts of kindness, bravery, and selflessness that offered hope to those affected. In the following stories, we'll highlight some of the remarkable individuals, organizations, and communities who stepped up when it mattered most, bringing light to the darkness left by the storm. Their actions serve as a testament to the goodness that can rise from even the most challenging times.

Bob Van Dillen

Among these inspiring tales is that of Fox Weather meteorologist Bob Van Dillen, who, in one of the most visible rescues captured during the storm, became an unexpected hero during a live broadcast in Atlanta. As viewers watched, he heard a woman's cries for help as floodwaters rose, and immediately sprang into action.

First responders were understandably stretched thin in Atlanta, where a flash-flood emergency was declared for the first time. Early Friday morning, as Van Dillen reported on the floods, he spotted a car nearly submerged in the background of his live shot. Inside the vehicle was a woman — trapped as the water rapidly rose around her. Her pleas for help could be heard through the darkness, reaching both Van Dillen and those watching the broadcast.

Van Dillen had already contacted 911, but knew that help might not arrive in time. "You could hear her screaming," he later told *Fox & Friends*, pointing to the car as the water continued to rise. Realizing the danger, he made the split-second decision to act. "I know I'm on air, but I can't just stand by," he told viewers before heading straight into the floodwaters.

Without hesitation, Van Dillen waded through the chest-deep water toward the stranded woman. Initially concerned about the current and the cold, he quickly assessed the situation and pressed on. His focus was on reaching the woman, whose car was almost entirely under water. When he arrived, the water had already risen to her neck.

Van Dillen calmly instructed her to undo her seatbelt. Once she was free, he helped her gather her belongings and carried her on his back through the floodwaters to safety. Though shaken, cold, and in shock, she was, fortunately, unharmed. Van Dillen gave her one of his shirts to keep warm while they waited for emergency crews and her husband to arrive.

When the woman's husband reached the scene, he was overwhelmed with gratitude, hugging Van Dillen and repeatedly thanking him for saving his wife. Reflecting on the incident, Van Dillen remained modest, saying, "It was just the good deed for the day."

Amid the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene, Van Dillen's actions remind us of the power of human kindness and courage.

Matt Martinka and Nathan Curlee

This same courage was evident as essential services such as electricity were restored in the wake of the disaster, a critical task for places such as hospitals, where lives hang in the balance. Two Duke Energy employees, Matt Martinka and Nathan Curlee, took on the vital responsibility of bringing power back to the Asheville VA Medical Center in North Carolina, which serves veterans throughout the region. Martinka, a journeyman lineman, felt an especially strong sense of duty to volunteer for the mission, driven by his personal ties to the military.

The journey to restore power was anything but simple. With washed-out roads and flooded terrain, the two linemen had to hike one and a half miles through muddy, mountainous conditions to reach the hospital. Despite the physical obstacles, their commitment paid off when they successfully restored power, providing much-needed relief to the hospital and its patients.

For Curlee, the experience was incredibly rewarding. "In our own way, we gave back. Those guys have given so much, and we gave back to them," he reflected. This act of service reflects the resilience and community support that emerge during times of crisis.

Mercy Chefs

This spirit of giving back is also embodied by Mercy Chefs, a nonprofit specializing in disaster relief and food insecurity, which has been working tirelessly in western North Carolina. Since September 30, Mercy Chefs has provided more than 200,000 meals to communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. Led by co-founder and president Ann LeBlanc, the team set up a mobile kitchen in the parking lot of Mission Hospital in Asheville, serving fresh meals to hospital staff, patients, and families, and delivering food to remote areas still grappling with recovery.

LeBlanc emphasized the importance of providing both nourishment and comfort during such trying times. "Our goal in disasters is to really feed body and soul," she said, highlighting the significance of offering fresh fruits, vegetables, and complete meals.

As the region continues to grapple with the storm's devastation, LeBlanc reflects on the scale of the destruction, describing it as "biblical in proportion." Despite the challenges, she finds reassurance with every meal served, knowing her team is making a meaningful difference in the community.

Cameron Bryson

In a fitting response to the "biblical" scale of the disaster, Cameron Bryson, a pas-

tor from Dallas, North Carolina, sprang into action after receiving an urgent call late Saturday night, September 28. The mountain town of Marion had been cut off by flooding and damaged roads. By Sunday morning, Bryson had rallied 35 church members, borrowed a truck, and filled it with essential supplies, determined to bring help to those in need.

The group faced obstacles, navigating through downed trees and power lines, until reaching a point where the road became impassable. A small team continued on foot, eventually arriving at a home where they heard a baby crying. The grateful parents had run out of formula the night before, and Bryson's group just happened to have exactly what they needed.

Bryson described the moment as "incredible." Since then, his team has expanded, and they, along with other local aid groups, have continued delivering crucial supplies to isolated communities in the southern Appalachian region. With communication cut off since the storm, Bryson's efforts have been a beacon of hope for those still stranded.

Carlton Gardner

The plight of the stranded was also felt by Carlton Gardner, who set out on Monday, September 30 to find his missing relatives in Pensacola, North Carolina, a mountain community devastated by severe flooding. Equipped with water, food, and a gallon of gas, he drove as far as the roads allowed before hiking the rest of the way. During his journey, he encountered his mother-in-law and several of her sons, who had been stranded for four days and were making their way down the mountain. Gardner then pressed on to find the rest of his family.

When he finally reached his relatives' home, Gardner was relieved to find that everyone was safe. Before he informed his mother, Dona Gardner, of their safety, he made one more stop. Dona had been following Facebook groups in which people were searching for missing loved ones and had seen a post from a woman worried about her family in the same area. Dona had promised that Carlton would check on them.

True to his word, Carlton visited the woman's family, confirmed they were safe, and passed the good news on to his mother, who then notified the relieved woman.

The next day, Dona and her husband gathered 30 gallons of gas to bring to their relatives and neighbors in Pensacola, helping them clear roads and power ATVs as recovery efforts pressed on. "You look out for your neighbors," Dona said. "That's just what everyone does."

That's what Americans do. ■

— Raven Clabough

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They Dared Call It Conspiracy

The Founders' discernment of significant, connected patterns of events sparked them to act decisively against British tyranny and craft the Constitution wisely to ward off conspiracy.

by William Norman Grigg

The origins and purposes of the U.S. Constitution cannot be adequately understood without an appreciation of the Founding Fathers' anti-conspiratorial mindset. The Founders were steeped in biblical insights about the danger of entrusting power to fallen men. They also recognized that politics — which deals with the struggle to control the state — unavoidably gives rise to conspiracies.

Indeed, the term "usurpation" — which is found frequently in the *Federalist Papers* and other constitutional expositions published by the Framers — refers to covert efforts to seize power, undermine proper authority, or infringe upon individual rights. Accordingly, the Constitution designed by the Founders was intended to make the government subservient to law, diffuse power among separate government branches, and make those who exercised government power accountable to the governed. Through such provisions the Founders sought to frustrate the efforts of what they referred to as "cabals," "intrigues," or "combinations" against liberty.

Because the Founders understood the logic of conspiracy, they were able to anticipate organized efforts to subvert the rule of law, and thus prevent the consummation of such designs. "The freemen of America did not wait till usurped power had strengthened itself by exercise, and entangled the question in precedents," recalled James Madison in 1785. "They saw all the consequences in the principle, and they avoided the consequences by denying the principle." Madison insisted that the "first duty" of Americans, in their capacity as citizens, is to "take alarm at the first experiment upon our liberties." Citizens who display what Madison called a "prudent jealousy" for their freedom will view each such "experiment" as the initial sortie in an organized assault upon their rights. Once again, Madison's admonition makes sense only if one shares his instinctively anti-conspiratorial outlook on politics.

In his 1789 *History of the American Revolution*, jurist David Ramsay elaborated upon Madison's theme, observing that the leaders of the Revolution displayed "that jealousy of their liberties … which they inherited from their forefathers" when they chose to go to war against the mightiest empire on earth over what were, at the time, potential abuses:

> The ruled are, for the most part, prone to suffer as long as evils are tolerable, and in general they must *feel* before they are roused to contend with their oppressors; but Americans acted on the contrary principle. They commenced an opposition to Great Britain,

The late William Norman Grigg was a senior editor of The New American *for more than a decade. This article originally appeared in our April 23, 2001 issue.*

> and ultimately engaged in a defensive war, on speculation: they were not so much moved by oppression actually felt, as by a conviction that a foundation was laid, and a precedent about to be established, for future oppressions. [Emphasis added.]

From the modern, statist perspective, the expansion of government power is something that simply "happens," perhaps in obedience to vast, inscrutable historical forces. The initiatives that Madison and the other Founders would have viewed as "precedents" for oppression are seen by followers of contemporary political fashion as harmless or perhaps even beneficial, because they are generally viewed in isolation from each other. In a specific sense, this approach represents an abdication of intelligence, which is derived from a Latin expression that means "to make connections." The Founders took care to see how enrichments of state power are connected, and to place them in the context of the struggle to defend liberty from power.

A useful example of this type of anti-conspiratorial analysis was offered by jurist John Dickinson — who was a relatively reluctant convert to the conspiratorial view of Great Britain's designs — in his 1774 *Farmer's Letters*. Using as his model the reign of tyrannical King Charles I, who was impeached by parliament as a "tyrant" and "traitor," Dickinson pointed out that for opponents of the renegade king, "[royal] acts that might by themselves have been … excused or extenuated derived a contagious malignancy and odium from other acts with which they were connected. They were not regarded according to the simple force of each but as parts of a system of oppression. Every one, therefore, however small in itself, became alarming as an additional evidence of tyrannical designs."

As the intentions of the British Parliament toward the colonies were made manifest after 1764, the leaders of the American Revolution — particularly John and Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and George Mason — applied intelligence to the political events of their time. They were able to see *patterns* and *connections* that bespoke evil *designs* to create a "system of oppression." Less perceptive individuals might have regarded Parliament's imposition of new taxes, for instance, as a small irritant to be endured; the revolutionary leaders, as Madison explained, understood the consequences of that imposition, and inferred the conspiratorial designs behind it. But it was their success in educating the public at large about that conspiracy, and mobilizing a critical mass of the colonial population to defeat it, that led to American independence.

Fallen Man, Corrupted Institutions

Conspiracies to pervert government into an engine of plunder and oppression are a natural outgrowth of human nature. Such is "the depravity of mankind, that ambition and lust for power above the law are … predominant passions in the breasts of most men," lamented Samuel Adams in 1774. He warned that ambitious, scheming men have "in all nations combined the worst passions of the human heart and the worst projects of the human mind in league against the liberties of mankind." Patrick Henry concurred with this dismal view: "I dread the depravity of human nature.... I will never depend on so slender a protection as the possibility of being represented by virtuous men." Because rulers are heir to the corruptions that disfigure all men, they are not entitled to the benefit of the doubt in their exercise of delegated power; thus Jefferson admonished that political leaders must be bound down from mischief "by the chains of the Constitution."

Prior to American independence, the expression "constitution" was used by English and colonial essayists to describe the Anglo-Saxon common-law heritage, with its protections for individual rights and its limitations upon the prerogatives of rulers. It was this tradition that inspired the Founders' intense suspicion regarding the motives of those who wielded political power. Harvard historian Bernard Bailyn notes that the grievances that inspired the Revolution, and that ultimately resulted in the creation of our constitutional republic, were "centered on a fear of centralized power and rooted in the belief that free states are fragile and degenerate easily into tyrannies unless vigilantly protected by a free, knowledgeable, and uncorrupted electorate working through institutions that balance and distribute rather than concentrate power."

"Absent justice," wrote Augustine, "what are kingdoms but vast robberies?" Any government that is freed from the limitations of law degenerates into a criminal conspiracy against the rights of the governed. Dr. Bailyn observes that the Founders shared Augustine's view, as they regarded government to be

Patrick Henry speaking before the Virginia House of Burgesses

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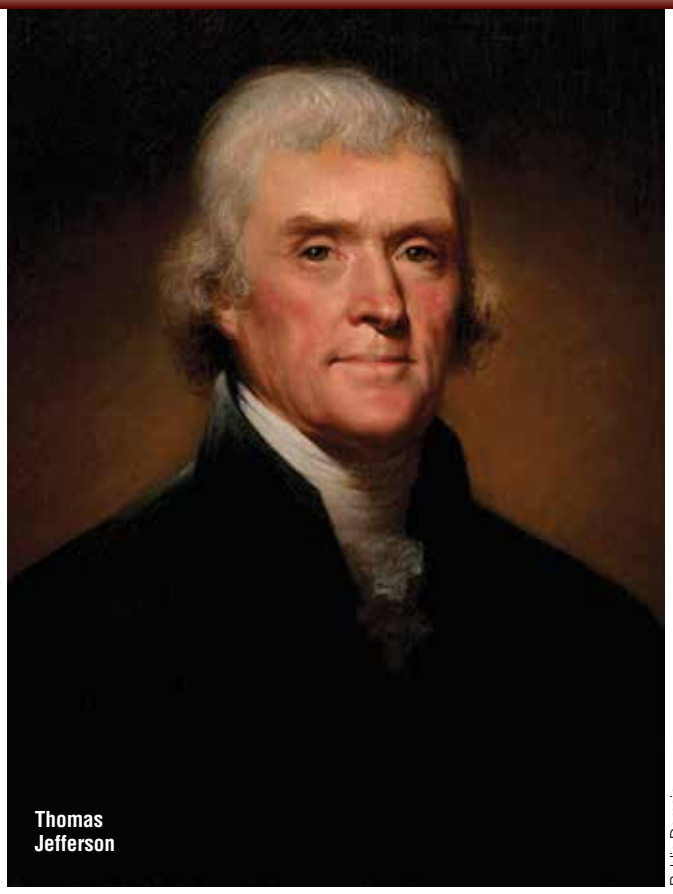
"by its very nature … hostile to human liberty and happiness." While they understood that government is certainly necessary to protect the rights of the law-abiding against the predations of the lawless, they maintained that it exists "only on the tolerance of the people whose needs it served" and that it can be resisted and even overthrown on behalf of a new system of government if rulers exceed their proper jurisdiction.

"The leaders of the Revolutionary movement were radicals — but they were eighteenth-century radicals concerned, like the eighteenth-century English radicals, not with the need to recast the social order … but with the need to purify a corrupt constitution and fight off the apparent growth of prerogative power," comments Bailyn. "Prerogative power" is the opposite of government under law; it is power that is wielded arbitrarily and without accountability to the governed. The "radicalism" of the Founders is best captured in the sweeping statement found in the Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal" — that is, both those who govern and those who are governed are equal before the law.

This is certainly a "radical" claim from the perspective of those who defend "prerogative power," who insist that whatever a government does is "legal." By denying this sinister claim the Founders denied conspirators one of their most valuable weapons: the ability to legitimize their evil designs by carrying them out through the instrumentality of the state.



Thomas Jefferson

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The Grand Design

The anti-conspiratorial view of the Founders was not based upon abstractions, but was instead a product of their own tangible experience. As the imperial British government moved to usurp their long-established rights to govern themselves — imposing new taxes, quartering troops among them, denying them trial by jury, cutting off their trade — the revolutionary leaders understood that they were confronted with a carefully-wrought design to reduce them to serfdom.

In his Pulitzer-winning 1965 study *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Dr. Bailyn concluded that "the fear of a comprehensive conspiracy against liberty throughout the English-speaking world — a conspiracy believed to have been nourished in corruption, and of which, it was felt, oppression in America was only the most visible part — lay at the heart of the revolutionary movement." Bailyn's book was the product of a detailed survey of the political writings of America's revolutionary era, including newspaper essays, broadsides, pamphlets, petitions, and published sermons and speeches. The most salient theme woven through these writings, observed Bailyn, was "a general sense that they [the revolutionary leaders] lived in a conspiratorial world in which what the highest officials professed was not what they in fact intended, and that their words masked a malevolent design."

"The colonists believed they saw emerging from the welter of events during the decade after the Stamp Act a pattern whose meaning was unmistakable," continues Bailyn. "They saw about them, with increasing clarity, not merely mistaken, or even evil, policies violating the principles upon which freedom rested, but what appeared to be evidence of nothing less than a deliberate assault launched surreptitiously by plotters against liberty both in England and America."

Writing on behalf of the pro-revolutionary cause in 1774, John Adams declared that "the conspiracy [against the liberties of the colonists] was first regularly formed and begun to be executed in 1763 or 4...." In an essay published that same year, Thomas Jefferson concurred with Adams' perception, and pointed out that British policies displayed a conspiratorial pattern. While "single acts of tyranny may be ascribed to the accidental opinion of a day," Jefferson advised, "a series of oppressions, begun at a distinguished period, and pursued unalterably through every change of ministers, too plainly prove a deliberate and systematical plan of reducing us to slavery." Once again, Jefferson's cogent warning illustrates the value of political intelligence — the ability to recognize connections and patterns among supposedly "single acts."

The anti-conspiratorial view of the Founders was not based upon abstractions, but was instead a product of their own tangible experience.... The revolutionary leaders understood that they were confronted with a carefully-wrought design to reduce them to serfdom.

As previously noted, John Dickinson originally resisted the idea that the rights of the colonists were threatened by a conspiracy. For several years, as Samuel Adams and other "conspiracy theorists" in the revolutionary movement insisted that the growing oppression of the American colonies represented the orchestrated work of concealed enemies of freedom, Dickinson — who was noted for his careful scholarship — insisted that the crisis was a product of accidental miscalculations, rather than organized malevolence. By 1774, however, Dickinson concluded, in phrases that echoed Jefferson's warning, that "a plan has been deliberately framed and pertinaciously adhered to, unchanged even by frequent changes of ministers, unchecked by any intervening gleam of humanity, to sacrifice to a passion for arbitrary dominion the universal property, liberty, safety, honor, happiness, and prosperity of us unoffending yet devoted Americans."

The year 1774 also saw the publication of the "Fairfax County Resolves," which were co-written by "conspiracy theorists" George Washington and George Mason. As a detailed inventory of grievances and a sweeping exposition of political philosophy, the "Resolves" could be viewed as a forerunner of the Declaration of Independence. The document asserted that the American colonists had inherited both the obligations and protections of "the Civil-constitution and Form of Government of the Country they came from," including "the fundamental Principle of the People's being governed by no Laws, to which they have not given their Consent, by Representatives freely chosen by themselves; who are affected by the Laws they enact equally with their Constituents; to whom they are accountable and whose Burdens they share.... [F]or if this Part of the Constitution was taken away, or materially altered, the Government must degenerate either into an absolute and despotic Monarchy, or a tyrannical Aristocracy, and the Freedom of the People be annihilated."

The effort to undermine the British "constitution," insisted Washington and Mason, was the work of conspirators following a "regular, systematic" plan of oppression: "[T]here is a premeditated Design and System, formed and pursued by the British Ministry, to introduce an arbitrary Government into his Majesty's American Dominions … [and] to reduce us to a State of Desperation, and dissolve the original Compacts by which our Ancestors bound themselves and their Posterity to remain dependent upon the British Crown...." In describing the labors of that conspiracy, the "Resolves" employed the language of a criminal indictment. The document warns of the "encroachments of despotism and tyranny"; it accuses the British Parliament of undertaking to "extort from us our Money without our Consent" and of following a plan "calculated to reduce us from a State of Freedom and Happiness to Slavery and Misery." Unless the conspiracy were defeated, warned Washington and Mason, it would "establish the most grievous and invulnerable Species of Tyranny and Oppression, that ever was [imposed] upon mankind."

George Washington

Wikipedia/Public Domain

Pretexts for Tyranny

There was indeed a plot afoot to usurp the liberties traditionally enjoyed by the American colonists. In Volume III of *Conceived in Liberty*, his five-part history of the American Revolution, the late Murray Rothbard described the British "grand design":

> The imperial Grand Design, hatched during the French and Indian War and put into effect as soon as it ended, was a comprehensive, many-sided move to subject America to the British Power. The vast new domains captured from France and Spain were to be occupied and administered as benefited a mighty imperial power. The laxity of salutary neglect was to be no more; all the mercantilist laws were to be strengthened and, above all, vigorously enforced; the British army was to overawe the unruly colonials by being stationed in America in force. The British army was to keep the French suppressed, rule the newly-won western lands, and help a network of royal bureaucrats enforce mercantilist restrictions.

"To pay for all this," continues Rothbard, "the British rulers hit upon a cunning expedient: the Americans themselves were to be taxed for that purpose.... The Americans would thus be caught in a vicious circle of tyranny: the British army was to be stationed in America, largely to enforce unwelcome regulations and taxes upon them, while the major excuse for the unpopular taxes was to pay for the selfsame army." Those taxes would be imposed by the distant Parliament, in which the colonies had no substantive representation. Legal cases that arose from tax disputes would be heard before British imperial courts rather than by a jury.

Even the most fastidious conspirators usually leave tangible

evidence of their intentions, and such was the case with the British grand design. A 1763 letter written by Maurice Morgann, a secretary to Lord Shelburne (president of the British board of trade, which was responsible for many of England's mercantilist policies), disclosed that while the deployment of British troops to the colonies would take place "under the pretense of regulating the Indian trade," they were actually being used "to awe the British Colonies." In fact, rather than *protecting* the colonists from the Indians, the troops would effectively *collaborate* with them in this scheme: "[T]he military force on the continent [will] be increased … so that with the aid of a naval force, the whole of the provinces shall be surrounded. The provinces now being surrounded by an army, a navy and by hostile tribes of Indians … it may be time to exact a due obedience to the just and equitable regulations of the British Parliament."

To colonial leaders who understood the logic of conspiracy, the pretexts invoked by the British ministry were utterly transparent. Parliament "seems determined to fix upon us a large number of regular troops under pretense for our defenses … [but intended instead] as a rod and check over us," wrote Eliphalet Dyer, a member of the Council of Connecticut, in a 1764 letter from London. Following the passage of the Revenue Act — which appropriated funds for the army of occupation — Dyer urged the colonies to unite in opposition to the conspiracy. Otherwise they would be left to "bid farewell to freedom and liberty, burn their charters, and make the best of thralldom and slavery. For if we can have our interests and estates taken away, and disposed of without our consent … and by those whose interests as well as inclination it may be to shift the burden off themselves under pretense of protecting and defending America," then the colonists were, in principle, not freemen, but serfs — however seemingly insignificant their present oppressions might seem.

The Constitutional Cure

America's successful struggle for independence was brought about by principled, anti-conspiratorial leaders who were not willing to concede such usurpations in the vain hope that they would "remain a dead letter." The Framers of the Constitution also understood that powers that are claimed will in due course be exercised; this is why, once again, they made power subservient to the law and accountable to the electorate.

Dr. Bailyn notes that "the American Constitution is the final and climactic expression of the ideology of the American Revolution" — an ideology that could best be described as "anti-conspiracism." The document has been described as an "anti-trust act" for political power. It is intended to prevent the consolidation of power in the hands of ambitious men who would use it to destroy individual freedom. While it is true that many who revere and seek to restore our Constitution reject a conspiracy-based analysis of current events, it is clear that the document is a product of the anti-conspiratorial mindset of its Framers. And that fact, in turn, argues for the wisdom of applying such a perspective to present efforts to usurp our liberties and undermine our republican institutions. ■

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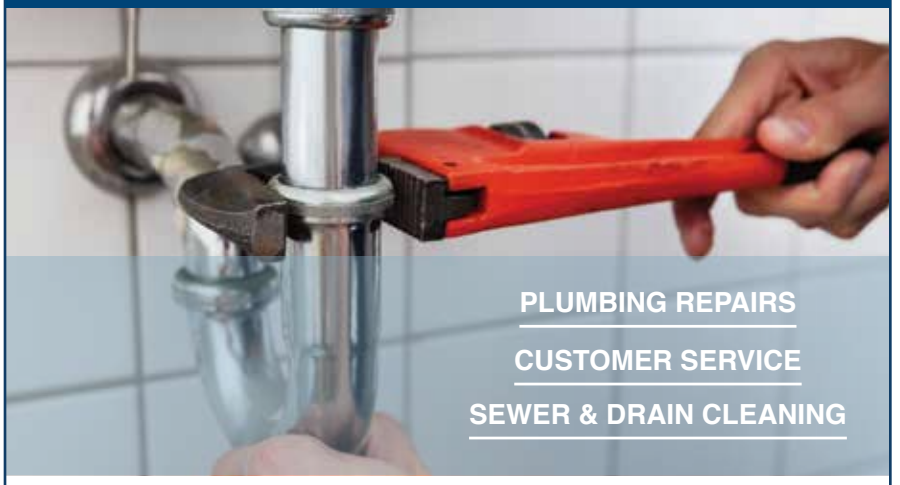

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Florida City Issues, Rescinds Order Banning Guns

In response to the approach of Hurricane Helene, the city of Okeechobee, Florida, declared a state of emergency and implemented an order prohibiting both the sale of guns and ammunition and the carrying of firearms.

Shortly after the order was made public, there was a backlash from gun owners. Police Chief Donald Hagan, who signed the order, was subjected to a torrent of complaints. The outcry got louder and louder until Governor Ron DeSantis became aware of it and contacted city officials. Within 12 hours of the order being issued, the city rescinded the order and claimed that it was issued by mistake.

Police department spokesperson Jarret Romanello told TCPalm.com on October 3 that Hagan actually expressed reservations over the order prior to signing it. "Chief Don Hagan had some concerns about the stipulations of the emergency order from the beginning, and once the order was placed in effect, it was in effect for about 12 hours and we started receiving some emails and phone calls about it, and the chief took a second look at it, took it to our legal team and he said he's terminating it," Romanello said.

Luis Valdes, the Florida state director for Gun Owners of America, told TCPalm, "It's still a Second Amendment issue. It's the whole thing of the canary in the coal mine…. This happened, this is important and we are a no-compromise national gun-rights organization. That is our entire stance, and we wanted to get to the bottom of this and make sure this never happens again because, as the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions." Valdes traveled to Okeechobee and warned the public officials of their personal liability for infringing on the Second Amendment, explaining that they could be fined up to $5,000 for their actions. Florida law has a statute that prohibits local municipalities from enacting gun restrictions and reserves those powers only to the state legislature. It subjects local officials who violate the law to potential removal from office and/or the aforementioned fine.

Okeechobee Mayor Dowling Watford reassured Valdes that this was a mistake and it wouldn't happen again. "I hope you realize that we realize that we made a bad mistake, and we will correct that in the future, I promise you. That will not happen again, I promise you that," Watford said in remarks reported by TCPalm.

Romanello added that both Mayor Watford and Chief Hagan are supporters of the Second Amendment, and that they had declared the city a "sanctuary city for the Second Amendment" back in 2020.

Still, many gun owners were skeptical of this explanation. Lee Williams, writing for the Second Amendment Foundation, remarked, "Chief Hagan signed the ordinance himself. Did he not read it? Did he fail to notice that he was prohibiting gun and ammunition sales and even firearm possession by his 5,432 residents when he signed the document?"

Off-duty Police Officer Shot After Home Break-in

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported on October 7 about a tragic story in Winston, Georgia, that involved an off-duty police officer being shot after breaking in to a home barely more than a week after being named "Investigator of the Year."

Security cameras outside the home captured what happened before the shooting. Aubree Horton, a nine-year veteran of the Atlanta Police Department, ran up to the house barefoot and shirtless in the early hours of the morning. He screamed out bizarre statements and was clearly in a state of distress as he repeatedly slammed against the door and then lay down on the front steps.

The male homeowner was awakened by the loud banging, retrieved a firearm, and went to investigate. The homeowner's wife usually leaves for work around that time, so when he checked the camera and saw a shirtless man pounding on the door, he was concerned that his wife might be in danger. The homeowner opened the door to look for his wife, and Horton immediately forced his way into the home, knocking the homeowner to the floor. The homeowner opened fire and mortally wounded Horton, who died at the scene. The wife had already left for work, but got notifications on her phone of what was going on and immediately called 911.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office issued a press release, saying that the homeowner was "fearing for his life and in defense of his home, [when he] … discharged a single round from his firearm, fatally wounding Horton inside his home." It is unlikely the homeowner will be charged for the shooting, owing to the fact that the incident occurred within the home after Horton unlawfully gained entry.

The investigation is still ongoing, but law enforcement is exploring whether Horton might have been on drugs or was having a mental breakdown at the time of the shooting.

Criminal With Toy Gun Shot

NBCPhiladelphia.com reported on September 30 about a robbery attempt that ended abruptly because the victim was armed. Philadelphia Police Inspector D.F. Pace told reporters that the robbery suspect and an accomplice approached a man and shoved what they indicated was a gun into the man's back and demanded all of his valuables. Pace told NBCPhiladelphia, "At that point, the victim began to produce the items that were demanded by the robber, but he was also in possession of a legal firearm." As the victim complied with the demands, he pulled out the firearm he was carrying and shot one of the suspects in the leg. The other suspect fled from the scene and is still being sought by authorities. The injured suspect was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment, and is expected to recover.

Police recovered a toy handgun from the scene, which they believe the suspect used in the attempted robbery. "After the victim opened fire on the robbers, that gun was dropped and ... we now know it to be a fake gun.... But ... there would have been no way for the victim to have known that," Pace said. ■

— Patrick Krey

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THE REVIEW

Gripping Tale of Colonial America

by William P. Hoar

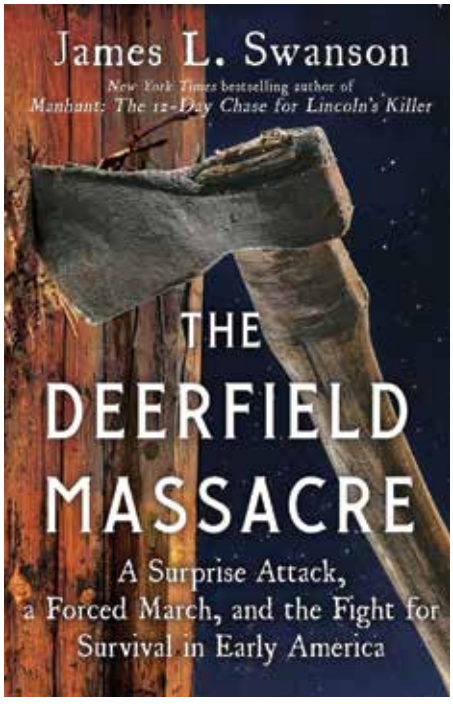
***The Deerfield Massacre: A Surprise Attack, a Forced March, and the Fight for Survival in Early America*,** by James L. Swanson, New York: Scribner, 2024, 326 pages, hardcover.

If you want to deliver a historical account with a wallop, describing bygone events from about 320 years ago, it helps to start with a thump.

Thus, we are back on February 29, 1704 — in Deerfield, Massachusetts, on the eastern edge of the English empire, at the frontier of Colonial America — as the "thud of a tomahawk" smashes into the front door in the "middle of this wintry, snowbound New England night." This "startles Rev. John Williams awake."

That is definitely not the alarm clock. That is, as we read, "the opening moment of the Deerfield Massacre, a forgotten tale of war and empire, life and death, endurance and survival, family and faith, and resurrection and redemption from a long-lost America when the destiny of a continent was at stake."

Be assured that you are not going to hit the snooze button at this point. Before you close this book — *The Deerfield Massacre: A Surprise Attack, a Forced March, and the Fight for Survival in Early America* — you will know the insides and outsides of the well-documented events and the very door itself. This "impregnable barricade, venerated by early Americans as the 'Old Indian Door' — [is] constructed from double-thick panels of Massachusetts oak and studded with hand-wrought iron nails to repel the tomahawk and hatchet blades of Native warriors."



That door has become, over time, the "sole surviving artifact from one of the most dramatic episodes in colonial American history: when hundreds of Natives and their French allies swept down from Canada to attack an isolated frontier outpost, burn the town, slaughter its inhabitants, and capture the rest."

In a clear, crisp narrative (especially in the first two-thirds of the book), we learn how the 112 survivors, "including Deerfield's fearless minister, Rev. John Williams, were captured and led on a three-hundred-mile forced march through the frozen wilderness to enemy territory in Canada." Any of those captives who faltered, as we see in as much detail as is available — "including women and children — fell under the tomahawk or war club, leaving signposts of blood in the snow all the way to New France." Eventually, as readers are informed, those who did survive "willed themselves to live and endure the sufferings of their captivity until a miraculous reversal of fortune brought them home to Deerfield."

John Williams, the "Redeemed Captive"

The author serving as our tour advisor for this journey into the past is James Swanson, who also wrote the bestselling *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's*

Killer. Swanson is an attorney who has written about history, the Constitution, popular culture, and other subjects for a variety of publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *American Heritage*, *Smithsonian*, and the *Los Angeles Times.*

As Swanson explains in the book's acknowledgment section, he came to Deerfield for the first time years ago when he received what was then called a Historic Deerfield Fellowship to study furniture, paintings, silver, architecture, landscapes, ceramics, textiles, gravestones, historic preservation, and, as you might imagine, the massacre of 1704. At that point, he lived in a pre-Revolutionary War house near the massacre site. His personal fingerprints are seen throughout — so that when he describes a commemoration of Deerfield held three centuries-plus after the original raid, he's writing about a ceremony in which he participated.

The bibliography that is included, with Swanson's own library taking precedence, is extensive. It is augmented by descriptive chapter notes quite helpful to researchers; there is also a well-done index and a name appendix — boons to remind readers who is who (an aid in particular when dealing with individuals from different generations who bear the same names). Excellent maps and an extensive photograph section are also included. While Swanson ably provides the larger picture, in context, there are also the types of minutiae that add flavor — such as the fact that the term "massacre" wasn't applied to the events until the 100th anniversary, when the minister preaching at that time used that expression, which was not used by those who experienced it.

Swanson gives John Williams' best-selling book *The Redeemed Captive* the credit due, calling that 1707 account of the journey and long Canadian captivity "one of the two or three best Indian captivity narratives ever written." (As the author is winding matters up, he becomes a bit of a "beggar" — giving some of us bibliophiles a smile — with a personal plea, saying he is willing to "pay any price, bear any burden" to add to his personal library a complete copy "of the urtext, the first edition of John Williams's *The Redeemed Captive*, the origin tale where this story begins.")

Earlier in his own book, Swanson refers to *The Redeemed Captive* as "two books in one" — with the first being the first-hand drama and action, and the second being "abstract theological arguments and polemics" about the causes of the raid. In some ways, Swanson's *The Deerfield Massacre* is similar — perhaps inevitably — with the more stirring aspects of the events being more memorable than what happened to and in Deerfield as time wears on.

Readers of a more secular era might need to remind themselves, perhaps repeatedly, of the religious period involved — with the time being described as that of Puritans such as Increase Mather and his son Cotton Mather (who plays a small role in *The Deerfield Massacre*). The complicated relationships with various Indian tribes are reviewed, as well as the fact that scalping was practiced both by Indians and English settlers. For background, readers get reminders of King William's War and Queen Anne's War. The international religious circumstances do play a major part. As Swanson puts it:

> The French to the north and the English to the south differed over their chosen religion. Thanks to Henry VIII and his Reformation, the English were generally of the Protestant faith. The French, having stayed allied with the Church of Rome, practiced Catholicism. Missionary efforts by the French to convert their Indian allies and English enemies they captured added an additional level of anxiety and jeopardy to daily life. Natives wanted to possess the physical bodies of those they captured, but the French wanted to possess their souls by converting them to Catholicism.

James L. Swanson

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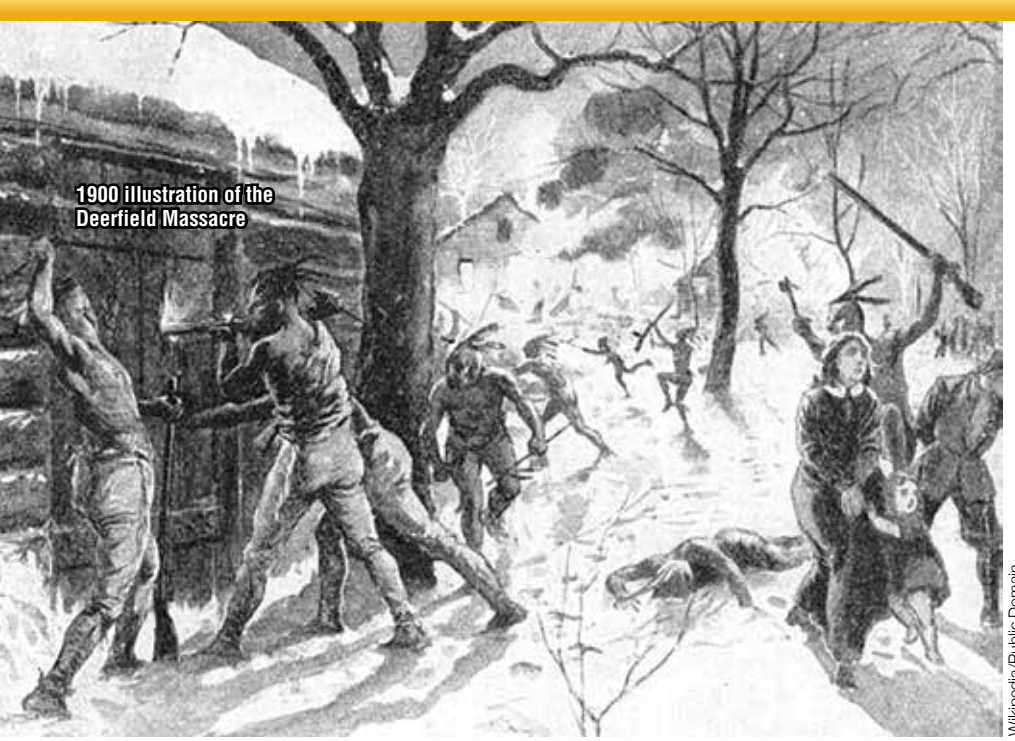
Meanwhile, pre-captive Williams is pictured preaching "like an Old Testament prophet who foretold the coming of evil days."

Tests of Faith

Those evil days did come, some during the journey north, others during captivity. There were killings, torture, and bribery, among other trials (including separating families, especially the young, to boost vulnerability) that faced those who lived. (Part II of the book is entitled "The Aftermath: Captivity and a Test of Faith.") The narrative covers multiple varieties of captivities. There was one escapee. Williams was told by his captors that if anyone else got away, all the captives would be burned alive at the stake. Swanson calls this a "bluff." Maybe, but it worked.

During his captivity various tactics were used on Williams, whose young daughter Eunice was taken by the Indians (her story is covered comprehensively in *The Deerfield Massacre*). French officials and the Jesuits used different tactics on him. After he was separated from the other captives, Williams faced even more trials. The French, we read,

> offered Williams more bribes and rewards to convert to the Catholic faith and remain in Canada. These offers were becoming ever more elaborate on the part of the French, but they were exhausting to Williams, who kept rejecting them. The French wanted to show off Williams as a trophy, an English Protestant minister who converted to French Catholic ways, so they could hold him up



1900 illustration of the Deerfield Massacre

Wikipedia/Public Domain

> The first inhabitants of Deerfield lived in peace with the neighboring Indians until King Philip's War [in 1675-1676, including a horrendous ambush of colonists and militia that became known as the battle of Bloody Brook], when the Wampanoag chief Metacom (the English gave him the name King Philip) led a 14-month-long rampage against the English noted not only for its savagery, but because Philip's father, Massasoit, had attended the "First Thanksgiving" in Plymouth in 1621. To the English, it felt like a betrayal. To Philip it was payback. It was the last serious attempt by the Indians to push back the ever-encroaching English from Native lands.

Swanson, rightly, doesn't spare readers a taste of the fighting's details. Here's just a bit more of that:

> From all sides now, Indians descended upon the unprepared soldiers and teamsters, clubbing them with musket butts, slicing them open with tomahawks, stabbing them with knives, or fracturing their skulls with tremendous blows from ball-headed war clubs.

None, one presumes, gave thanks for that Thanksgiving dinner.

What about the famous door (once bought by a collector for $100 — then sold back later for the same amount, plus shipping costs, in an intricate exchange)? One might call the campaign for the door's retrieval a "knotty" problem. Actually, the "Old Indian Door" in Ensign John Sheldon's key house near the center of the town did not fail. According to Swanson's retelling, some unnamed "coward" (the author's word) couldn't stand the "war whoops and howling voices" or suppress fear of the tomahawks' progress. He apparently fled out of a hidden back door, but left that door wide open behind him.

In short order, the Indians "discovered the breach and poured into the house. Mohawks took the three older children prisoner, but poor Mercy, age two, received none. A Mohawk beat her brains out on the threshold stepstone."

A clash of civilizations, indeed. ■

> as an example of what other English captives should do. But the reverend refused: "What is a man profited," he asked, invoking Scripture, "if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul."

There's much more in that vein.

The eventual return of 57 captives, including Williams, involved convoluted negotiations and considerable time — there was almost a thousand days between the attack in Deerfield and their arrival back in Boston on November 21, 1706. "Cotton Mather hailed their return as a bountiful 'harvest,' and the greatest star of all was the returning minister John Williams — the 'redeemed captive,'" writes Swanson. Understandably, not all of those who had been captured went back to their previous homes. However, as the author notes, it was Williams "who brought Deerfield back to life."

The Massachusetts Frontier

While the story of John Williams is at the hub of *The Deerfield Massacre*, there are plenty of spokes of the wheel to examine. This reviewer finds the earlier days (putting the "massacre" in historical context) and the first two parts of the book to be the most absorbing. It is said that learning history is easy (which is debatable), but that learning its lessons is almost impossible. That could be the case here. What did visitors to Deerfield really think they learned, say, a century later, or today? Swanson covers it all. And he does it adeptly.

Less riveting are the subsequent "action figures" of Williams and a "Mohawk warrior" (shown in the photo section) included in a 1995 package that is depicted. At least the purchase included a 24-page booklet. Or maybe you would prefer colorful cutout paper dolls with a Deerfield Massacre theme?

Certainly, readers will be reminded, if that is necessary, that the Wild West is not the only part of our land that has involved a clash of civilizations. The "Wild East," as historians (including Swanson) have recorded, had plenty of barbarism as well. Yes, to think of western Massachusetts as the "frontier" is a bit mind-boggling for many. That historical framework — and why settlers already had those reinforced doors — is handled quite admirably in these pages (even if "Native," rather than Indian, is used a bit too often, seemingly to appease modern eyes).

One suspects that more Americans know, or think they know, more about certain early Thanksgivings than about King Philip's War, which was within living memory of early Deerfield residents. Swanson reminds us of that era:

TAKING ACTION

Is Global Tyranny in Our Future?

by William S. Hahn, CEO of The John Birch Society

nsit0108/Adobe Stock

"This [a path to a brighter future] will require a recommitment to international cooperation based on respect for international law, without which we can neither manage the risks nor seize the opportunities that we face. This is not an option but a necessity. Our challenges are deeply interconnected and far exceed the capacity of any single State alone. They can only be addressed collectively, through strong and sustained international cooperation guided by trust and solidarity for the benefit of all and harnessing the power of those who can contribute from all sectors and generations."

This quote comes from the UN's Pact for the Future. If the Founding Fathers had believed this, the United States would still be answering to England. The arrogance in the remarks should be overwhelming to the average American. Those who value independence, and believe that rights come from God and that governments are instituted to protect those rights, should have no use for the United Nations, its affiliates, or its plan for global government.

According to its own charter, the UN believes that government not only grants rights, but also is the final arbiter of those rights, dismissing God entirely. The UN does not believe in a limited government that allows a man, through his effort and God-given skill, to better himself and his family. It only knows government as a power to accomplish a collective agenda.

The UN's claim that global challenges "far exceed the capacity of any single State alone" is complete rubbish. Those who believe this willfully ignore American history prior to the UN's founding. When the "State" has taken the place of God and does not believe in His direction, His will, or His eternal salvation, central control over all people in the name of peace, security, and prosperity becomes an exercise in tyranny. Transhumanism rises to achieve immortality through technology. This arrogance of man is a classic depiction of what occurred at the Tower of Babel in biblical history.

How else — other than under God's will — did a fledgling group of colonies beat the mightiest earthly kingdom of their day? The actions the Founding Fathers and those who supported the cause of American independence took were nothing short of miraculous. However, do you honestly think that if the United States got pulled into a world government we could once again achieve independence — this time with all the world's resources aimed against us? It's much easier to stay out of a world government than it would be to break out later.

I was recently asked how The John Birch Society could even fathom placing such emphasis on getting out of the United Nations when there are much more important things to work on in this country. I was surprised by such a question, especially from someone I thought was "in-the-know." Many well-meaning Americans just do not see the tentacles of the UN reaching into their very lives and locales. The UN Agenda 21's sustainable development has already been infecting local decision-making for more than a decade. Its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 160-plus actions will ensure that "no one is left behind," and will balloon the amount of government bureaucracy on every level.

Farmers, ranchers, and other property owners are already fighting to save their land from eminent-domain seizures based on the Agenda 2030 goal of combating so-called climate change, supported by both state and federal-level Democrats and Republicans who are drunk on unconstitutional federal dollars subsidizing such lunacy.

As the Pact for the Future demonstrates, the UN is a much greater threat than many believe. It means to destroy the very fabric of this country with its migration policies, and change America from the inside out, before causing the country to fall into globalist hands like an overripe fruit. If America is to endure and remain independent, then it will need to evict the UN from its shores.

The foremost organization working to make that happen is The John Birch Society. Educate yourself, educate others, and organize through action. Start today at JBS.org. ■

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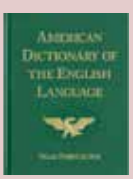

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